

# Florida

Fly Rod Horizons  
The Canada Goose

*Fishing • Hunting  
• Conservation •  
Outdoor Recreation*

# WILDLIFE

JUNE 1967

*The Florida Magazine for all Sportsmen*

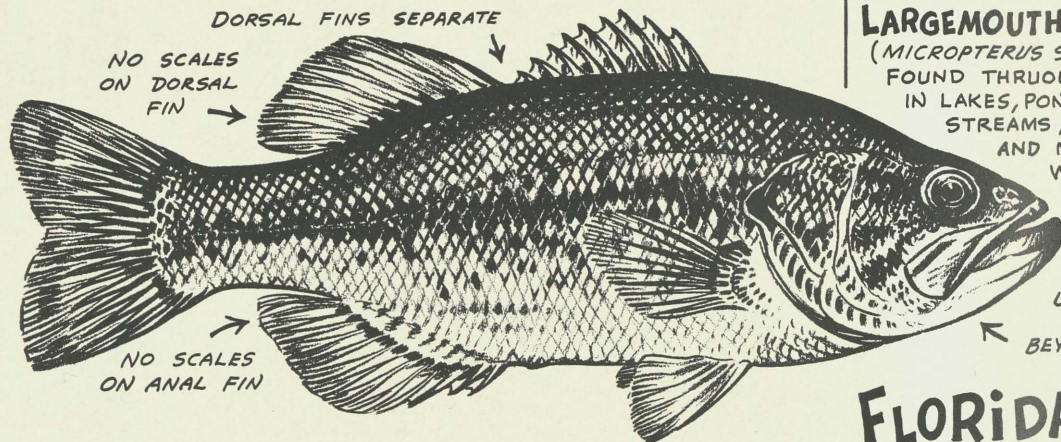
25 CENTS



Wallace  
Hughes



# Florida Wildlife Scrapbook



## LARGEMOUTH BASS

(*MICROPTERUS SALMOIDES*)  
FOUND THRUOUT FLORIDA  
IN LAKES, PONDS, RIVERS,  
STREAMS, SPRINGS  
AND MARSHES •  
WEIGHT TO  
15 POUNDS  
OR MORE

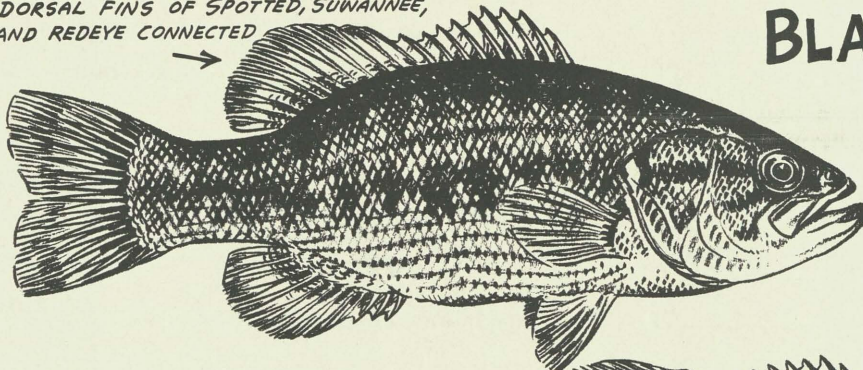
UPPER JAW  
EXTENDS  
BEYOND EYE

DORSAL FINS SEPARATE  
NO SCALES  
ON DORSAL  
FIN →

NO SCALES  
ON ANAL FIN →

## FLORIDA BLACK BASS

DORSAL FINS OF SPOTTED, SUWANNEE,  
AND REDEYE CONNECTED →



## SPOTTED BASS

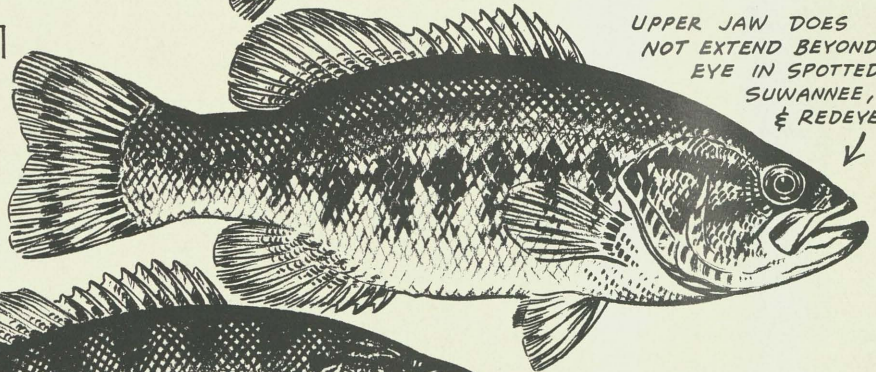
(*MICROPTERUS PUNCTULATUS*)

FOUND IN THE  
APALACHICOLA RIVER  
SYSTEM OF NORTHWEST  
FLORIDA • MAXIMUM  
WEIGHT LESS THAN  
5 POUNDS

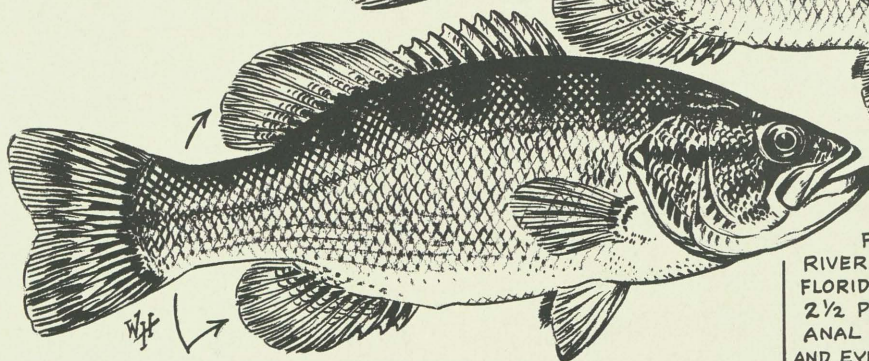
## SUWANNEE BASS

(*MICROPTERUS NOTIUS*)

A SMALL BASS FOUND  
IN THE SUWANNEE  
RIVER & ITS TRIBUTARIES  
• AVERAGE WEIGHT  
ONE POUND OR LESS



UPPER JAW DOES  
NOT EXTEND BEYOND  
EYE IN SPOTTED,  
SUWANNEE,  
& REDEYE



## REDEYE BASS

(*MICROPTERUS COOSAE*)

FOUND IN THE CHIPOLA  
RIVER SYSTEM OF NORTHWEST  
FLORIDA • WEIGHT TO ABOUT  
2½ POUNDS • SOFT DORSAL,  
ANAL AND TAIL FINS-REDDISH  
AND EYES RED IN MATURE SPECIMENS

SCALES PRESENT ON DORSAL AND  
ANAL FINS OF SPOTTED, SUWANNEE  
AND REDEYE

— FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION



# Florida WILDLIFE

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## The Cover

Another of Florida's popular panfish, the Warmouth is also known as "goggle eye," "warmouth perch" and "warmouth bass." Purely a fish of southern waters, they are usually taken by anglers using live bait such as worms, or with artificial fly lures. See Page 12.

From A Painting By Wallace Hughes

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ROSE



TALLAHASSEE

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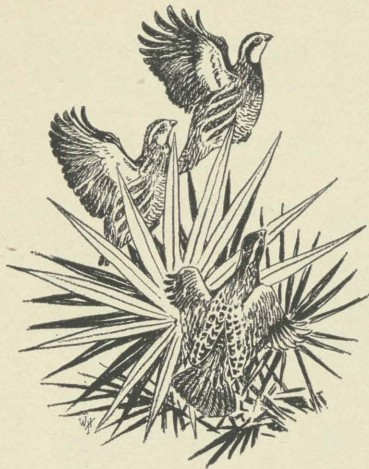
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# CONSERVATION SCENE

## Ducks Unlimited Group Expand Waterfowl Breeding Projects

**T**HE ALLOCATION of a record \$800,000 for waterfowl habitat construction, and the election of new officers were keynotes of the 30th Anniversary Convention of Ducks Unlimited, Inc., held in Richmond, Va., early in April.

A total of 85 delegates from across the U.S. and Canada participated in the convention, along with the staffs of Ducks Unlimited, Inc. and its construction affiliate, Ducks Unlimited (Canada).

Among the noteworthy highlights of the Board of Trustees meeting was the approval of the record appropriation of \$800,000 to Ducks Unlimited (Canada) for 1967 construction and rehabilitation of prime waterfowl breeding areas. This amount, \$100,000 higher than the previous record sent to DU (Canada) during 1966, brings to well over \$12-million the total conservation funds sent north of the border during DU's three decades of pioneering in the field of waterfowl conservation.

To finance the record-breaking allocation, the organization's Board of Trustees approved a 1967 budget calling for income totaling \$1,194,000—also a new high.

Another focal point of the Richmond meetings was the election of new officers for the coming year. Elected as President by

unanimous vote was Charles B. "Chic" Allen, 47, of Baltimore, Maryland. Mr. Allen had previously served as Chairman of the Flyway Committee and as a member of the DU Executive Committee.

The Board heard complete reports on the 1966 "duck factory" programs completed and the 1967 construction projects, highlighted by the Del-Mar Lakes Project near The Pas, Manitoba. This huge 512,000-acre marsh complex is being sponsored and underwritten by devoted outdoorsmen in the states of Delaware and Maryland.

In his final message as President of Ducks Unlimited, Inc., Henry G. Schmidt expressed deep gratitude to the sportsmen of the U.S. and Canada who have made DU's progressive programs possible. He also added a note of caution, saying: "I think it is extremely important that we

don't just pat ourselves on the back, tell each other what a fine job we've done and relax on our laurels. There will be other extended droughts in Canada's prime waterfowl nesting areas—and there will be years of disastrous floods. It is imperative that we press ahead to accomplish as much as we can, as quickly as possible."

During 30 years of conservation effort, DU has built over 800 waterfowl habitat projects across Canada, encompassing over 1.5 millions acres of wetlands with 8,000 miles of shoreline.

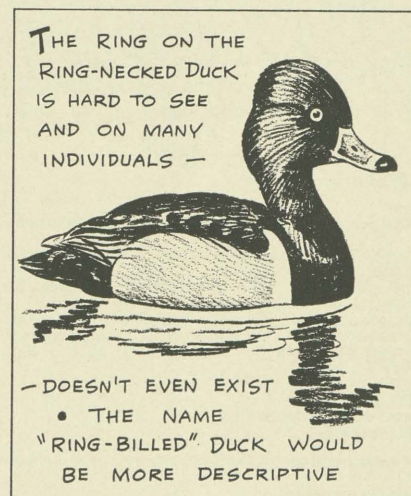
### Conservation Saga

A new book, *A CONSERVATION SAGA*, written by Ernest F. Swift, former executive director and currently conservation advisor of the National Wildlife Federation, went on sale during the Federation's 31st annual meeting in San Francisco. The 272-page, hardbound volume marks a number of "firsts"—first major book written by the author, first hardbound book to be published by the Federation, and the first book illustrated by artist Betty R. Thomas, of Big Piney, Wyoming.

"To many of his contemporaries," says Senator Gaylord Nelson, of Wisconsin, in the book's foreword, "the name of Ernest Swift and the conservation movement are synonymous. His life has been devoted to developing and applying a true philosophy of conservation—a philosophy which, for its profoundness and

*(Continued on page 32)*

### Nature Notes





## Suwannee River Park

### Observation Platform

A SCENIC OBSERVATION platform overlooking the famous Suwannee River has been completed at Suwannee River State Park near Live Oak.

The new structure, which projects about 50 feet over the water, is placed at the spot where the beautiful and historic Suwannee and Withlacoochee Rivers join within the park.

These rivers form the boundaries of three counties, Madison County to the West, Suwannee County to the South and East, and Hamilton County to the North.

Visitors may thus have the interesting experience of standing above the confluence of two rivers and looking into two counties while standing in a third.

The Suwannee River, featured in Stephen Foster's well known song, flows between rocky banks through scenery of rare natural beauty, and a park visitor standing on the overlook has a lovely view whichever way he turns.

A 26-foot long walkway leads from the shore to an observation platform 26 feet square. The whole structure with its deck of natural-finish pine boards surrounded by wooden guardrails, is supported 25 feet above the water on creosoted pilings, and blends with its rustic surroundings. Architect for the project was Kendall B. Starrett, Jr., of Ft. Pierce.

Already a great tourist attraction, the overlook is fascinating to visitors who have come to the park to enjoy its other attractions such as the Confederate earthworks, nature trails, swimming, fishing, boating, tent and trailer camping and picnicking.

#### MOVING?

If you are planning to move, please send notification four weeks before changing address. Send your address label from a current issue, plus your NEW address. This will ensure continued subscription service.

## A Look At Conservation

### The Changing Scene

By ERNEST SWIFT

National Wildlife Federation

PHILOSOPHIES AND ATTITUDES regarding the outer limits and uses of the natural resources have changed radically since this continent was discovered. At first explorers and tradesmen were virtually one and the same. They exploited whatever was at hand with a total indifference to consequences. The adoption of the Constitution did not change this concept. It continued until the 20th century and only then was restricted because of laws which reflected a growing public indignation.

The first Congress and those ensuing found the western holdings a commodity to pay off the soldiers and the public debts. Land speculators and pre-emptors were soon at odds as to who was to gain title to the public lands and how it was to be accomplished.

Washington and Jefferson gave no thought to conservation as we understand it, but they were interested in improving farm practices. The former called agriculture "the most precious art." He was also active in large land speculations. Jefferson wrote many papers on farming including the making of maple sugar as a substitute for cane sugar. His interest in the West was not personal, but that it become a part of the nation's empire.

While small homesteaders were busy burning timber to make way for corn patches, there was a growing number of self-taught botanists, ornithologists, men of science and authors studying the new-found flora and fauna of this fecund land. They also had a great curiosity as to what lay beyond the western horizon.

These included John Bartram, who had the first botanical gardens, Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Wilson, Fennimore Cooper. John Audubon went west to paint pictures of wildlife in the raw before they disappeared, and Daniel Boone and his ilk cannot be left out. They migrated for different reasons, but did some first-hand observing.

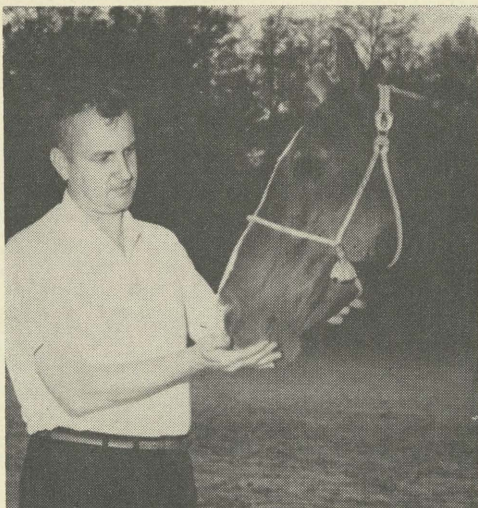
Alexander Henry the Younger left a valuable record of game populations of the Red River Valley of the North, the Saskatchewan and the Canadian West, but nothing on conservation. Specific instructions to Lewis by President Jefferson, when he and Clark made their trip to the Pacific, were to collect specimens of all kinds, both wildlife and plants. They were also to report on opportunities of expansion and trade.

Washington Irving's *ASTORIA* was a valuable contribution on the primeval West, as well as his story of *Bonneville*. Most of Jed Smith's journals were lost, but would probably have been the most interesting of all.

The years ahead were dedicated to the notion that this nation would never run out of resources because it was taking so much effort to discover the dimensions of the country. The term *MANIFEST DESTINY* was coined to justify the conquest of California, parts of Mexico and subjugation of the Indian. Catlin, Bodmer and Kane traveled the prairie, the Missouri

*(Continued on page 33)*





In addition to considerable hunting and fishing interests, Dr. R. H. Schulz enjoys a variety of outdoor recreation activities including raising of thoroughbred horses and strange exotic birds.

Dr. Richard H. Schulz, Commissioner

Northwest Region — Marianna

Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission

**M**OST Florida sportsmen clamor for full daily bag limits when they go fishing or hunting. But Dr. Richard H. Schulz believes that having a lasting place to hunt and fish should be Florida's major recreational goal, and that creel and bag limits can be managed later. He has been known to shoot where game is plentiful without taking an easy legal limit. It's the opportunity to hunt that he enjoys most.

Dr. Schulz was appointed to the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission from the Northwest Region by Governor Claude Kirk in January 1967, for a five year term.

With a wary eye on Florida's exploding population, disappearing lands and shrinking fresh waters, Dr. Schulz sees a big job ahead to provide good hunting and fishing for "twice as many people as we now have." The youth of Florida and Dr. Schulz's own family provide his principal inspiration for devotion to Commission affairs. He has eight children—three boys and five girls—all of whom are outdoor enthusiasts. "My greatest concern," he says, "is that they have an opportunity in the future to hunt and fish."

Dr. Schulz was born in Winter Haven in February 1924. In his boyhood he lived next door to Ross Allen, nationally known herpetologist. "His animals," Dr. Schulz says, "made me a lover of wildlife. At times Ross had about everything to be found wild in Florida and these early contacts with animals gave me a lasting interest in the outdoors."

A graduate of Winter Haven High School and the University of Florida, Robert Schulz received his medical degree at Emory Medical School, Atlanta, where he married Sarah Malone of Atlanta, also a physician.

Associated in medical practice with his wife, Dr. Schulz has been in general practice in Marianna

since coming to Jackson County in 1953 from a two-year tour of Army duty as Medical Officer at Fort Rucker, Alabama. They are members of the Unitarian Church and are active in state and local medical and civic affairs. He is a member and past president of the Marianna Rotary Club and recently served as Republican member of the Marianna City Commission.

A skilled and truly dedicated outdoorsman, Dr. Schulz prefers quail hunting but is also a member of an Eglin Field deer hunting lodge. He recently made two trips to Yucatan, Mexico for quail hunting.

One of his greatest skills is catching Florida's striped bass in the Apalachicola River at Chattahoochee. Fishing the rocks at night, below Jim Woodruff Dam, he has landed stripers weighing up to 25 pounds in past years. Lately, catching the huge sturgeon found in the same locale has presented a new challenge for him. His quest at present is to find a successful bait and method of catching the fish when it feeds.

Dr. Schulz also enjoys cooking and eating wildlife. He takes special interest in finding ways to turn less favored fish and game into tasty dishes. "I hate waste," he says, "and find that almost all game and fish is good eating when you learn the way to cook it properly."

A fancier of exotic birds, Dr. Schulz keeps prized macaw parrots at home and in his office. He boasts a 75-year old macaw, now mated with a lady of the species, and has accomplished the rare feat of raising parrot offspring in captivity.

On his combination farm and water-development land, which he manages solely for outdoor recreation, there are ostriches, fine sheep and thoroughbred horses. These modest acres embrace the "Plazure Stables," which house his wife's Arabian steeds, and contain a dense swamp, a small fishing lake, plus good squirrel and turkey hunting woods. A sizeable week-end cabin and fishing dock are located deep in the area.

Dr. Schulz maintains that his deep concern at this early stage of service as Northwest Region commissioner is to preserve lasting places to hunt and fish in the future. But for a man of his deep interest in all outdoors he is certain to sponsor other and specific projects for statewide outdoor recreation. ●





TO DETERMINE IF a stream which produces poor or mediocre fishing can be managed to produce good fishing, Jimmy Barkuloo, Fisheries Biologist, has a project going on three creeks on Eglin Field (Middle Creek, Malone Creek, and Metz Creek) and one on the Econfinia River in Taylor County, all areas not otherwise blessed with abundant fresh-water fishing waters.

On Middle and Malone creeks, shell barriers have been placed both upstream and downstream, the undesirable fish, mostly suckers, eliminated, and gamefish introduced.

Metz Creek, untouched, is being used only for comparison purposes.

These rivers have a constant flow of water, and the porous shell dams allow water to move freely through them.

The work on the Econfinia River varies slightly in that this river dries down during periods of drought and therefore cannot support a stable fish population. Barkuloo has constructed three low-level, limestone dams. During periods of high water, they become artificial shoals over which the water can spill. During low water, the dams hold the water and allow the fish to survive.

The dams are between Highways 98 and 27.

BIOLOGIST George Horel is spearheading a six-sided lake management program on lakes Griffin and Harris (Lake), Guano (St. Johns), Hollingsworth and Parker (Polk), and Trafford (Collier).

Step 1 involves the determination of those species which interfere with the gamefish, and their control by selective, marginal, or total treatment.

This first phase also includes the management of game species by habitat improvement, the removal of unfavorable conditions, watching for future harmful developments, and the introduction of carnivorous species—such as channel cats and stripers—to control an overabundance of forage fish.

Step 2 revolves around the stocking, where needed, of bass, flathead and channel catfish, and other carnivores and gamefish in established ratios.

Step 3 considers standardized creel census work to find out what type of management is necessary to create good sportfishing.

Step 4, through fish population sampling by block net and seining, will aim at determining the type management needed and when it should be applied.

Step 5—the written reports on these findings.

Step 6 will be a continual water-quality analysis of the six lakes at the Eustis Laboratory.

Many of these lakes lack suitable spawning areas for gamefish. Lake Hollingsworth bass will be encouraged to spawn in drums planted with vallis-

neria, while bass in Lake Parker will be coaxed to reproduce on nylon matting.

“DREDGE AND FILL” are frequently “dirty words” in the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission’s book. This destruction of the shallow edges (littoral zone) of a lake destroys spawning areas of gamefish, eliminates cover where fry and fingerlings may hide, removes that active area where aquatic insects and other small organisms eaten by the young gamefish may reproduce, to say nothing of the aesthetic loss.

Application for permits to do this type of work are checked by the Commission to see what effect the digging will have on aquatic life. The Commission voices its opinion and the permit goes on to the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund at Tallahassee for the final word.

With the continued remodeling of Florida’s landscape, fisheries biologists are usually called upon several times each month to evaluate such plans.

Typical might be a month in which Forrest Ware and Jon Buntz, working out of the Lakeland office, investigated five such applications.

They lost one “battle” about reshaping 37½ acres of Lake Okeechobee shoreline, but were successful in halting an illegal (without permit) operation on Lake Rosalie. The developer was forced to remove 16,000 cubic yards of fill from the normal underwater part of the shoreline (about 1 1/3 miles) and was fined \$2,370.00. Another illegal Lake Rosalie operator was required to remove the fill he had put on the state-owned lake bottom. Two more permit applications on other lakes were denied.

Normally, most of these operations can be worked out to the satisfaction of both parties. But when the operation proceeds without a legal permit, it usually spells trouble.

LAKE JULIANA, near Lakeland, as a Fish Management Area, has been selectively treated for gizzard shad, stocked with channel catfish, and has had artificial reefs built in it, all under the guidance of C. L. Phillippy, Commission Biologist.

A voluntary creel census, with a writing table, cards, and mail box placed at the three camps through which 95% of the Lake Juliana fishermen pass, has proved outstandingly successful in enlisting angler cooperation.

Figure breakdowns show that the catch rate per man hour of bass (1.32) nearly equals the maximum catch rate (1.45) for lakes located throughout the United States. ●



## Summer Fishing

**T**HE SKY HAS JUST begun to lighten in the east with a faint tinge of pink. A hint of a breeze fails to ruffle the mirror smooth water.

Off to the right, the lunge of a feeding bass breaks the stillness with a resounding splash. Another exploding splash, louder than the first, echoes across the water from the far side of the lake.

The snap, crackle and pop of pan fish feeding under the lily pads begins to increase in tempo.

Mornings like this, full of anticipation for a lunker bass to grab the lure, are waiting for anyone who wants to try the hundreds of lakes and streams of Central Florida.

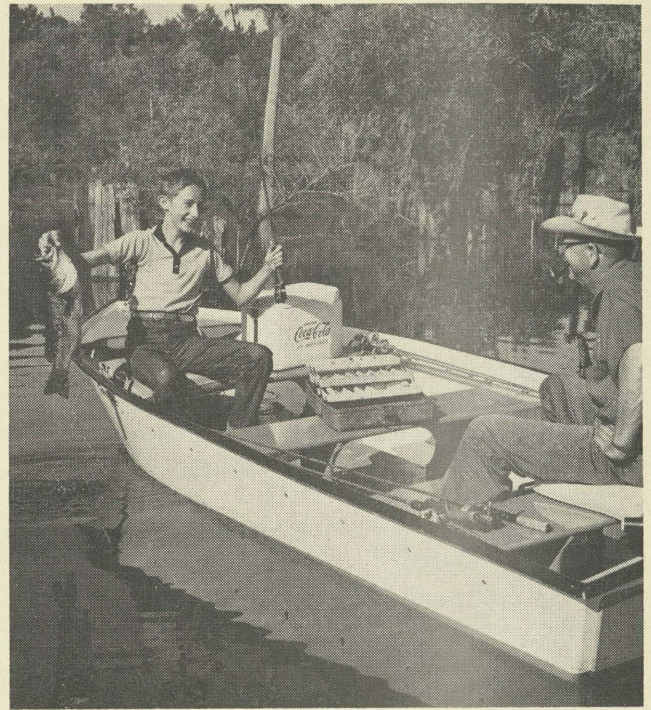
Despite the shortage of rain, fishing resorts throughout this area are reporting fair water levels in the lakes. This, they say, is due to the heavy rains of last fall and winter.

Some of the streams are down a little from normal. Knowledgeable sportsmen say this has sent the bass and panfish searching for food where you can get at them.

High water, they confide, seems to keep the fish close to the banks and in most cases this means "out in the woods."

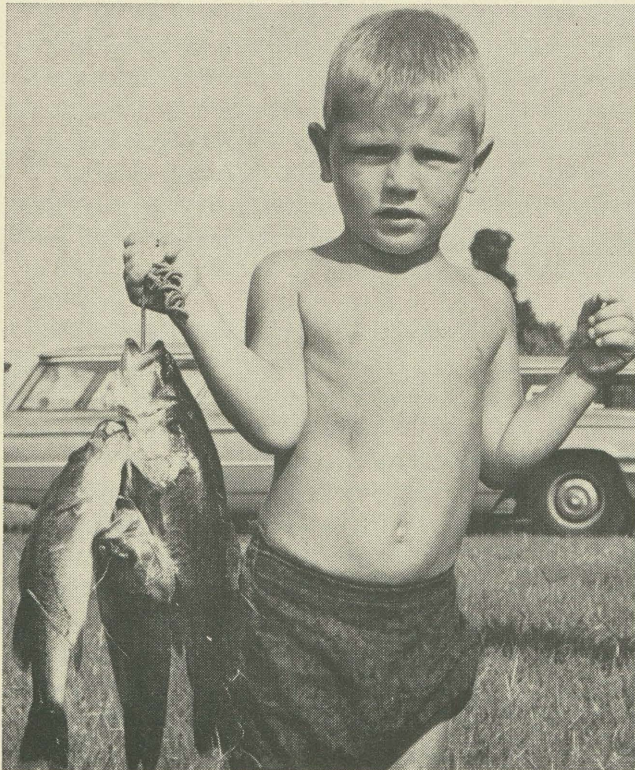
Limit catches of crappie—speckled perch or "specs"—and blue gill bream have been reported consistently from Lake George on the Marion County side, and from the chain of lakes around Leesburg, Winter Haven and throughout Lake and Sumter Counties.

Reports also seem to indicate larger bass being taken this year than ever before. A woman angler



With the arrival of warmer weather, angling conditions and techniques tend to change. Area drought situations may affect normal activities but, for summer fun, take a boy out fishing.

Photo By Art Runnels



with a 14 pound, 6 ounce bass out of Lake Hatchineia topped the field of the annual Lake Wales Black Bass Tournament.

From Lakes Panasoffkee in Sumter County and Tsala Apopka at Inverness, comes the report that the bass are off the beds and feeding again.

The same seems to be true at Lake Harris and Little Lake Harris in the vicinity of Leesburg. The backwaters of the Withlacoochee (now called Lake Rousseau) at Dunnellon, and Lake Tohopekaliga at Kissimmee echo the same reports.

With the warming waters, those using top water lures or floating shiners some two feet below the surface are getting fine results.

As this warming continues, lures will have to go a little deeper. But those fishing during the early morning or evening hours will find top water lures the best.

Best bet for the warm weather period will be artificial worms and deep running plugs. Plastic worms have become deadly baits when fished slowly on the edges of grass, bonnets or lily pads.

Panfish will be waiting to latch onto anything. Live gray crickets and earthworms are standard baits for cane poles. Small artificials used with flycasting equipment will get their share as will those anglers who troll a small spinner in front of a small artificial bug.

It may be a chore to get up that first morning before daylight, splash your eyes open with cold water and gulp down a cup of coffee, but once you're on the lake, those splashing lunges and staccato snappings of feeding fish will change you—entirely! ●



# Gun Exhibits

MUZZLE FLASHES

There are many types of gun collection exhibits with spectacular and historical displays available for public viewing



By EDMUND McLAURIN

**I**F YOU LIKE GUNS, are a student of medieval or modern history, or simply seek interesting entertainment, then you should attend a gun show sponsored by a gun collectors' association.

No matter where you live or travel in the United States a gun show can usually be found and conveniently attended during its advertised tenure. There are locals, regionals and nationals.

Seemingly, every state has a complement of gun collectors' organizations that exhibit periodically.

On the Florida scene, the Florida Gun Collectors, the Dixie Gun Collectors and the Tampa Bay Gun Collectors—to name three of numerous active gun-loving groups—hold shows that attract thousands of spectators.

Most shows are free to spectators; it is the exhibitor who pays for the privilege of being the cynosure of admiring eyes.

Generally, gun shows are held in convention halls of leading hotels, in armories and community centers. Dates are pre-advertised in *THE SHOTGUN NEWS*, probably the most widely read of firearms publications. Shows also rate announcements in local newspapers. Local gun dealers can usually tell you when a show is pending.

Among the largest of the national shows are those held at the Sahara Hotel in Las Vegas. These shows usually reflect a particular programmed type of display—Colt revolvers one time, rare Volcanic and Winchester rifles another—although not denying display tables to non-specialized collections. Some of the finest gun collections in the country are to be seen. Persons attending do not have to be Sahara Hotel guests; the shows are open to everyone. If you are Las Vegas-way, contact the Sahara management to find out if your visit coincides with one of the widely acclaimed gun shows.

Meanwhile, there are other good shows near your home. Inquire around about places and dates.

Many gun collectors have no hesitation about traveling hundreds of miles to set up an exhibit at an advertised gun show. Considering average gun weight, required packing and careful transportation, and the many times the various exhibit items must be handled in preparation for attractive display, participation in a gun show involves a tremendous expenditure of energy! Yet seldom do the larger shows have any unclaimed display tables. . . .

One gun collector has partially solved the transportation and handling problem in a novel manner. For gun shows in his home area, he has equipped an ancient tandem bicycle with a 12-gun display mounted on handlebars and frame. He rides the bike to the gun show, parks and begins greeting guests and associates!

Exhibitors derive a lot of pleasure from sitting proudly behind collections and explaining technical features or historical background, but mostly they enjoy simply talking about, swapping and selling guns to each other. Total strangers find it easy to strike up friendly, interesting conversation.

At the gun shows, early European and Asian history have modern day expression through still-existing matchlock, wheel lock and flintlock weapons, and Chinese and Japanese hand cannon dating back to first uses of gunpowder. American weapon history is exemplified by types of guns brought to our shores by early explorers and settlers, as well as by subsequent manufacturers of immigrant gunsmiths and American factories, right up to the fast-firing Colt AR-15 and M-16 rifles now seeing service in Viet Nam. For every period of American history, there is symbolic weapons array.

Individual collecting interests vary widely, and frequently are highly specialized. One collector may exhibit old duelling pistols, others feature various model Colt handguns, Lugers, early Remingtons and Winchesters, derringers, military weapons of the world, or Kentucky flintlocks. You name the type weapon and period! Weapons of the War Between the States period are especially favored by many collectors, for good reason; variety. . . .

Lacking the manufacturing facilities of their northern enemies, the primarily agricultural southern states had to obtain weapons for the War from every possible source. The result was a conglomeration of types and models, both domestic and foreign. Nevertheless, with such arms as they were able to muster, the Confederates stubbornly fought what has been described as "the bloodiest war in our history," and by inflicted casualties undoubtedly made the Yankees wish they had never goaded the ordinarily mild-mannered Southerners to action.

Included among widely used Confederate arms were the Southern-made Griswold & Gunnison,  
*(Continued on next page)*



(Continued from preceding page)

Leech & Rigdon, Spiller & Burr, Dance Bros., and Columbus Firearms Mfg. Company, handguns.

A favorite—and one of the most famous of Confederate sidearms—was the LeMat combination nine shot revolver that had a cylinder which revolved around a shotgun barrel. It could be used even when partially disassembled, which contributed to its formidableness.

The LeMat was the invention of Dr. Jean LeMat, of New Orleans, who later served as a Colonel under General P. G. T. Beauregard. Foreseeing difficulties of Southern-state manufacture of his weapon, LeMat wisely arranged for manufacturing to be done in France. At least three thousand of the combination sidearms eventually served Confederate officers and enlisted men well.

Where a gun show list of exhibitors includes one or more specialists in War Between the States' period military weapons, a LeMat is almost certain to be available for first hand study.

Another interesting War Between the States' arms import was the English-made .44 caliber double-action Adams revolver. Next to the Colt, the Adams was perhaps the most desired of revolver models. In 1861, the Virginia State Ordnance Department received a shipment of 999 new Adams revolvers to equip its militia. Many of these handguns are still in existence, and are occasionally seen at gun shows. . . .

Guns that helped win the West—the Henry rifle, the early model Winchesters, the Sharps rifles, the Colt handguns and the sawed-off shotguns of Wells Fargo stage guards, plus weapons once owned by famous personalities of Western history—are relatively standard items at most gun shows.

But it is at one of the national or regional gun shows that you are most likely to find a Gatling gun, the early model, hand-crank operated, multiple barrel machine gun that could have changed history at the Battle of Little Big Horn had General Custer previously taken advantage of the availability of at least four Gatlings. Wherever displayed

today, the lethal brainchild of Dr. Richard Jordan Gatling, a Hertford, North Carolina, inventive genius, never fails to elicit spectator interest. Every viewer readily recognizes the Gatling gun's firepower and superiority over other military weapons of its time.

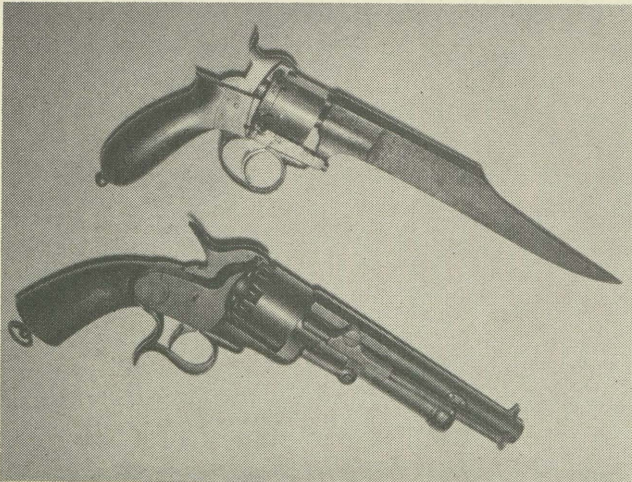
In the same category are the few remaining models of the Billinghamurst and Requa rifle battery, a wheel mounted weapon that spewed forth havoc from 25 side-by-side barrels during the last years of the War Between the States. . . .

The Mauser bolt action rifle, developed in original form about the middle of the last century by two German brothers, Paul and Wilhelm Mauser, can undoubtedly claim rightful title to the world's most popular military rifle. More countries have used, or still use, shoulder weapons of basic Mauser design than any other. Even our Model 1903 Springfield, a long time favorite American service weapon, was essentially of Mauser design; the United States paid patent royalties for the privilege of using basic Mauser operating principles.

Although manufacturing was first centered in Obendorf, Germany, adoption of the Mauser by other nations resulted in eventual establishment of plants in Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Spain, Sweden and various other places. Generally, physical differences in component parts were very slight; consequently, easy interchangeability of parts among Mauser rifles, wherever made throughout the world, has been another good characteristic of rifles of Mauser design.

But Mausers have been made with noticeable differences in receivers, location of cartridge clip guide and other variations. Comparing the physical differences of, say, the German 98 Mauser, the Argentine Mauser and the modern FN and Crown Husqvarna models is an interesting study. Most of the more common Mauser models can be found at a gun show. . . .

In order to be able to buy and sell guns commercially, gun collectors are required by Federal law to hold a Federal firearms dealer classification license issued by the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division of the Treasury Department. Every now and then some high official of this agency announces a legal decree or ultimatum that seemingly serves no practical purpose, yet causes needless inconvenience to gun lovers, gun collectors included. Not long ago revolvers converted for use of shot cartridges (popular for shooting snakes and rats) were declared weapons of illegal ownership classification, except under heavy Federal tax and registration, despite their limited usefulness. This particular issue was finally seen in true light,



A combination pistol and fighting knife, at top, and the LeMat 9-shot revolver with cylinder revolving around a shotgun barrel, are typical pieces sought by collectors.





Florida gun collector Col. Rolfe Holbrook holds monogrammed handgun that once belonged to the famed Confederate General P. G. T. Beauregard. Other Colt handguns with contemporary weapon models comprise the combination background display.

Somewhat similarly, at recent public hearing in Washington on a proposed national anti-gun law, opponents were required to make objections in *fifteen* copy form; otherwise, a valid objection could not even be recognized!

The irony of it is that some of the very persons who think up such needless, harrassing rulings admit they enjoy those occasions when they visit the gun shows as spectators, and enjoy using guns as hunters or once did. . . .

A gun show is the place to take an heirloom weapon for appraisal or disposal. If small enough, carry the gun to the show in a paper bag, and, after striking up conversation with an exhibitor, casually mention that you have an old gun in the bag. A "Let's have a look at it!" is sure to follow—even though you may have to make other gun show contacts before getting a satisfactory offer or trade. Occasionally, one of these paper bag deals results in a rare gun model being put into dealer-collector circulation.

Anything that burns gunpowder, or ever burned it, is of interest to a gun collector, rest assured. Likewise, there is something at every gun show that will surely interest *you*. ●

and the imposed regulations and heavy tax lifted. Revolvers converted to shotshell use were once again correctly classified with other sporting weapons.

## The Other Side of The Coin

By JOHN MARSMAN  
Savage Arms Company

IT HAS OFTEN BEEN said, and quite erroneously, by anti-hunting critics that sportsmen are concerned only with shooting wildlife for sport, that they couldn't care less for its conservation.

Examples contradicting this premise can be found without too much difficulty among the many sportsmen's organizations across the country, but the latest example to crop up, and perhaps one of the most emphatic in driving home a rebuttal, comes from Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

DU recently observed its 30th anniversary as a non-profit membership organization dedicated to the protection and perpetuation of waterfowl resources. There was reason to celebrate.

For the first time in its history, DU received, from sportsmen-conservationists during the course of a year, contributions in excess of \$1 million—a record \$1,060,430.11. The previous high for a 12-month fiscal period was \$876,240, set in 1964.

It was no accident that waterfowlers enjoyed a bountiful harvest in 1966, considered by some DU biologists as one of the best waterfowl production years in the past decade.

Who were the top contributors to DU's cause last year? They were four of the most popular duck hunting states in the nation—California, Minnesota, Louisiana and New York. Here is indisputable proof that sportsmen work and pay to protect and perpetuate the wildlife resource they harvest.

Through membership in DU and support of its annual fund-raising campaigns, sportsmen-conservationists have raised a total of \$14.5 million in 30 years, nearly \$12 million of which has gone to Canada for the construction of wetlands projects.

This is the sole purpose of the organization, to restore and preserve prime waterfowl nesting areas in Canada where 80 percent of North America's waterfowl are hatched. Since its inception, DU has built some 850 "duck factories," as they are called, encompassing more than 1.5 million acres of wetlands with nearly 8000 miles of shoreline.

This is truly a commendable record of achievement for sportsmen who participate in the nationwide program on a voluntary basis. It is a tribute to the many voluntary committees which help organize fund-raising campaigns each year for Ducks Unlimited.

They number sportsmen from all walks of life, men who enjoy the sport of shooting, who realize that wildlife is a crop that must be harvested or it will be wasted. They know this is to be a fundamental concept of conservation.

But they also know that in order to enjoy future harvests they must concern themselves with replanting and restoring depleted habitat. They are willing to pay whatever price is necessary to help protect our natural resources.

Ducks Unlimited stands as a glowing example of how sportsmen are doing just that. ●





A warmouth like this has a mouth big enough to take a bass popper that a bluegill would only spar with.

## Fly Rod Horizons

**Many fly fishermen live in their own little world and could make a career out of exploring just a few other angling possibilities**

**T**HIS FELLOW GETS OUT his fly rod every spring about the same time. He finds the shoreline he likes and then crawls into the bow of his skiff, gets out a short paddle and begins sculling slowly down the bank with one hand. With the other he operates his flyrod.

His distance from the bank is about 25 feet and he flops his little rubber spider or popping bug against the edge with accurate regularity, holding the boat just right.

It is getting late in the evening and you can hear the soft plops of feeding bream all around him so he has the right hour and place. He catches a lot of fish and he is a fly fisherman. Maybe he picks up a bass or two.

After a few trips like this he puts the flyrod away, generally in early summer, and waits until next year. There is nothing wrong with his system. If you told him the flyrod was good for anything else he wouldn't listen and if you told him his casting left something to be desired he'd think you were crazy. He also figures he's just about reached the limit of the fly rod's possibilities and apparently

he feels no association with the TV fellows who land monsters on flyrods or the magazine writers who travel with fly rods to the ends of the earth.

The fly rod has never come into its own in Florida despite the things you read about it. Right now there is something of a revival of interest in fly fishing all over the country and there is a little stirring around here too. One fly fishing authority told me with enthusiasm that there is a "world wide boom in fly fishing" but I think he's exaggerating.

A lot of tackle dealers are thinking about fly outfits because they figure they have the country pretty well saturated with spinning gear and its tackle boxes pretty well filled with tricky lures and plastic worms.

But the fly fishermen who really get the fever are a small percentage. The reason is simple: It takes a while to become skillful with a fly rod and the fellow with electric windows on his car and remote control on his television set isn't going to stand out in the yard and wave something that doesn't work correctly immediately. The Florida fishing attitude is represented pretty well by the



new salesman in one sporting goods store who came to the manager with a pushbutton spinning reel he said was defective. He said he'd pushed the button repeatedly and the practice plug didn't shoot out. What was wrong? It was a disappointment to him to learn you had to wave your arm on each cast. To people like that how are you going to sell a sport that takes several days to learn?

I'm not peddling fly fishing but for the fellow who already has the outfit and some little knowledge of how to use it I'd like to point out some new avenues of fun.

Most Florida fly users are primarily after panfish. Their sole efforts with the fly rod for bass are brief forays with large popping bugs.

The voices which carry so strongly over speeding outboard motors are generally pretty much the same when I'm fly fishing. Generally it's: "Looky over there. Brim fishin'."

Maybe I am and maybe I'm after bass. Some fly rod bass methods certainly don't fit bluegill appetites. Take the big streamer.

Generally the slowly worked streamer isn't as

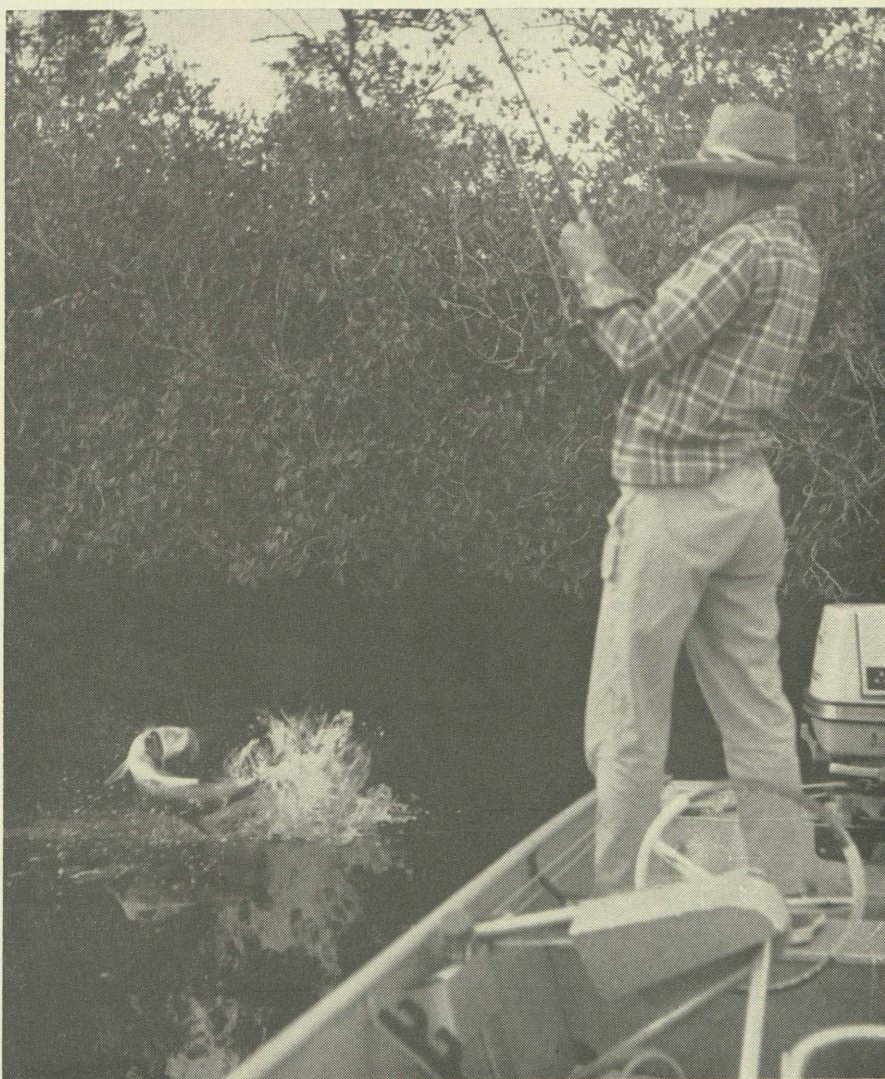
productive as plugs or spoons because flash and glitter are important. However, there are times when good bass want an underwater dingus worked off the bottom and more slowly than spoons or plugs will perform. Take a feather streamer in bright color (usually yellow) and a full six inches long—same as they use for tarpon. You need a pretty husky rod to cast it but if you'll allow it to sink a little and then retrieve with irregular jerks it sometimes produces when hardware won't. This thing will sink so slowly you can work it over the tops of sunken grass and weeds and if you want to go to the trouble of using weedless hooks you can work it through almost anything but remember that unless the fish grabs hard weedless gadgets don't work too well on flies—the fish pushes the whole works out of the way.

Now these big streamers aren't revolutionary (most of the black bass articles I read reveal sure-fire secrets) but there are some days when they answer well. Generally they are a last resort when fish are sluggish.

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By **CHARLES WATERMAN**

A small tarpon takes to the air close by the boat after snapping up a streamer fly.





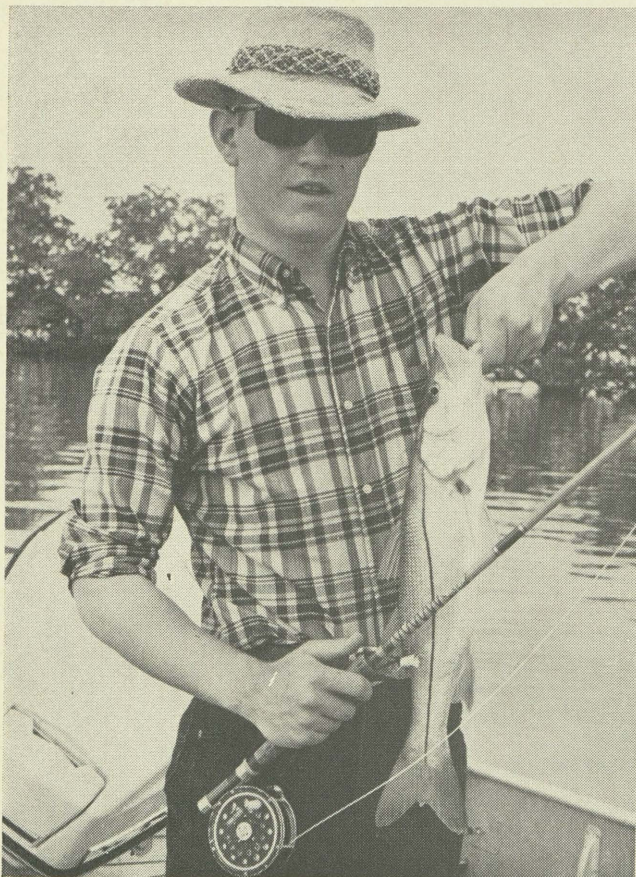
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The popping bug worked loudly and energetically is well known to almost anyone with a fly rod. When worked very slowly it's an entirely different kind of lure.

For loudly popped bugs I'm not too particular as to the hair, feather or rubber parts but for the slowly worked article they become important. Long rubber legs have a very live appearance on a bug that is moved only slightly at intervals of 15 or 20 seconds and the slowly worked bug makes good use of longer feather or deerhair tails and "frog legs."

All of these slow movers are very attractive to panfish, especially bluegills, stumpknockers and warmouth. They pull them under by the "legs" or "wings," generally having mouths that don't fit a true bass bug too well. The warmouth has enough mouth that he generally gets hold of the thing but the smaller bluegills can nibble until you quit trying to set the hook and simply watch their swirls.

Thousands of bass owe their health to these bluegills. A fisherman gets used to the little fellows and when a good bass sucks the bug under he figures it's just another precocious fingerling and doesn't set the hook. The bass tastes the paint, munches the hair and decides he doesn't want it after all so he spits it out and goes back to where he came from. The fisherman never knows he was close to a real fish.



I set the hook on everything. I cornfield 4-inch bluegills which land on the other side of the boat: I get hung up on small garfish and I give little warmouth the ride of a lifetime; but when there's a bass I generally make contact. I have paddled the boat while other fishermen failed to recognize a lot of bass takes.

I love to see a bass blast a popping bug but they don't always and some days nearly all of them want the slow motion treatment. The next day they may be all TNT and blackpowder.

On these slow motion days the hair bug is a killer. I never see much difference in the color needed and I guess natural deer hair is about as good as any. It can be tied as a "powder puff" which is supposed to represent a mouse, or made into a hair frog or fancied up into a "muddler," which is a little fuzzy hair head with a tail of turkey feather, calftail and a bit of tinsel around the hook. The muddler looks a little like a lot of things and exactly like nothing.

The chief merit of these soft hair creations is that they give when the bass bites them and thus continue the illusion that they're alive. The softness gives better hooking ability and will even bring a customer back for a second feel if he misses the hook on his first approach.

All of these bug types and methods work on bluegills if reduced in scale.

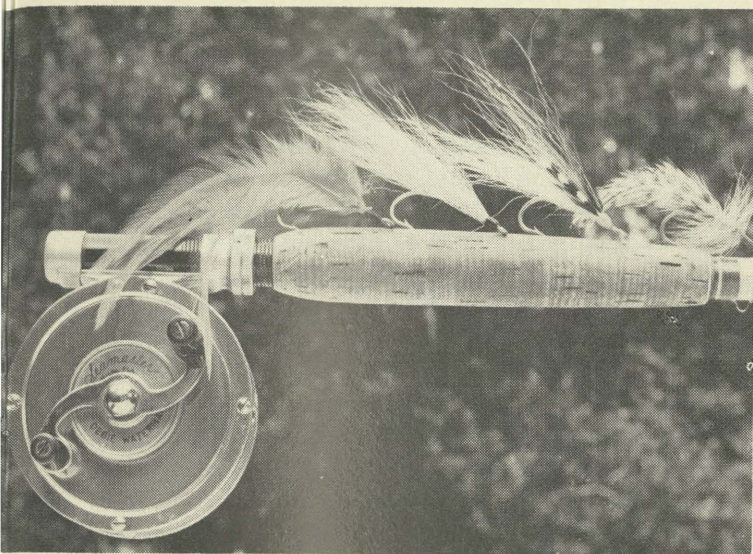
None of the saltwater fish I have bugged for prefer the very slow treatment regularly. Tarpon, ladyfish, jack crevalle, channel bass, snook, striped bass, salt water trout, mangrove snapper and barracuda generally like considerable action. I believe the soft-bodied hair fly is unnecessary in your salt water box. We don't put rubber legs on our snook poppers because we figure the lure is worked so fast they wouldn't make much difference.

Ninety percent of the Florida fly fishermen for bass use only surface or near surface lures. The sunken line is seldom tried here because bottom-hugging fish are sought with spinning or plugging tackle but there are a few situations where a sinking line really works in Florida, sometimes better than spinning gear. Most of the time the spinning outfit is better if you go deep but the name of the game is fly fishing for a few hardy souls and they'd rather catch one fish by fly than a dozen otherwise—same as hunters who want to get their deer with a bow.

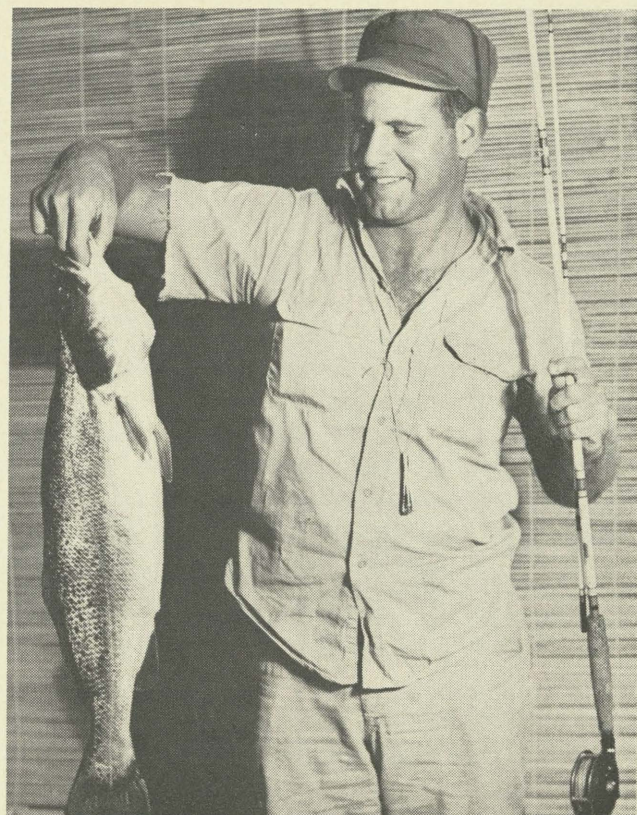
The sinking line is easy to cast except that because it goes down instead of picking up from the

Bass popping bugs work on snook, too. The happy angler is Johnny Bailey of Livingston, Montana.





Big streamers, like those above, were never intended for bass, but there are days when nothing works quite as well. Salt water trout (weakfish), at right, are frequent victims of fly rods. This one weighed more than nine pounds, and got a second place in the Field & Stream fly division for Milt Culp, Deland, Florida.



surface it must be retrieved well in before each cast and then worked out whereas the floating line may require little or no false casting.

A sinking line works well with small streamers and will keep them right on the bottom or near it. A slightly buoyant streamer will be a little slow to reach the mud or rocks and may hang up less than a heavy hooked, lightly dressed item. The manipulations of a bottomed fly are similar to but not exactly like a jig. Perhaps, being unhampered by weight, it is a bit more natural when moved by current or tide and has a more natural feel when struck by a fish.

But it's hard to tell just where a fly is located down on the bottom and a weighted jig on spinning or casting tackle can be worked more accurately. Weighted jigs will cast like bullets, generally giving you more range than fly tackle. With fly gear you waste more time casting and have trouble fishing at extremely short range.

Years ago when a fly rod was about the only way of handling very small lures and spinners I developed a hatred for everything but hair and feathers for fly fishing. Hear this, though. If you'll take a fairly bulky streamer fly with a lot of lift when cast through the air you can put a small streamer ahead of it and have reasonably easy casting. The spinner alone is an abomination but buoyed up on the cast by feathers or hair it doesn't do too badly. Of course you need a pretty powerful rod.

If you're satisfied with short flop casts, of course, you can use a spinner with almost any fly rod. The

deadly rubber spiders behind tiny spinners have been highly productive underwater lures with hair-line spinning tackle and they'll work with no weight at all on a husky fly rod. The rubber spider and spinner don't look like much to homo sapiens but appeal to a bream that doesn't want to chase them on top.

Using hardware with a fly rod isn't done much any more as most of this field is better handled by spinning tackle but some of the really tiny things go better with fly tackle. One of the old spoon types was the South Bend Trix-Oreno, a sliver of metal action that caught a lot of fish, especially small ones. Slender spoons like the Cather don't cast badly at all with a heavy rod.

In fishing shad with flies I once found them taking the little Cather much better than feathers. I was on the upper St. Johns River and casting from shore, using a heavy rod and sinking line. It was the kind of outfit preferred by California steelheaders. There was simply a short, sinking casting "head" and the shooting line was monofilament, giving me plenty of distance. I'd cast across the current and retrieve very slowly with the little spoon swinging downstream and it was the best medicine of all for shad on one particular day when it beat spinning tackle about three to one. It won't always do that by any means but it is a good shad outfit. The sinking line will also mop up on salt water fish at times but seldom gets a chance as there's too much emphasis on other methods.

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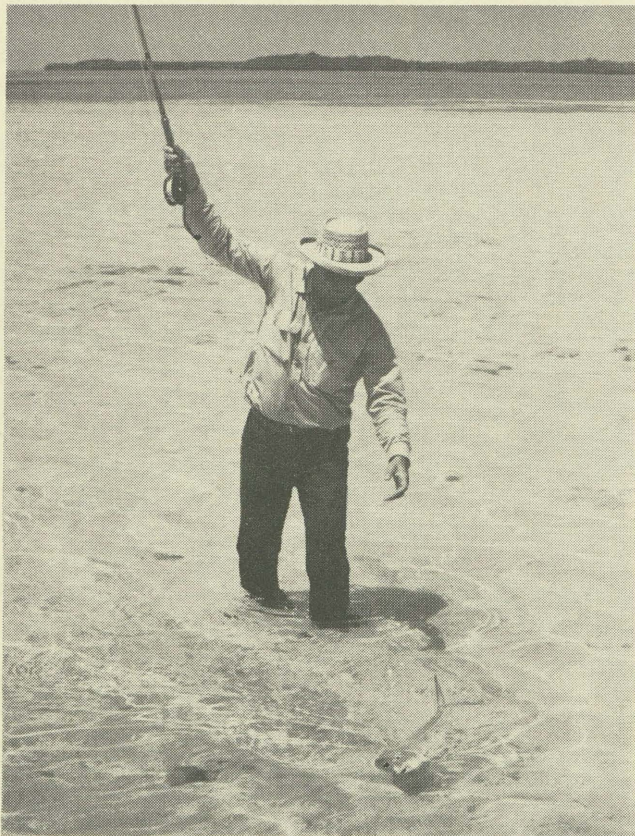
For hard core (sometimes spelled "hardheaded") fly fishermen there are methods for almost any fish that will take artificials. For more diversified fishermen the fly rod is useful only in special cases—but it's foolish to confine it only to the scull and flop system of the fellow who introduced this piece.

Some of Florida's salt water uses for the fly get a lot of publicity—chief of all being the fighting of big tarpon on the Florida Keys. This is a unique sport and whipping a 100-pound fish with a fly rod astonishes some and is disbelieved by others.

Of course the rods are pretty potent, the leaders painstakingly built and the reels of the big game type in most cases, but the tarpon on the flats is a good fly fish. I'm pretty green at that business but it's my experience that you can get more takers with a fly than with a plug or jig. In most saltwater fields the fly fisherman tries to mimic the action of a spoon or plug but on the Keys flats the pluggers try to imitate the streamers and some casting lures are painstakingly built to do so.

There is no other place I've found where the big tarpon are so receptive to flies. I've tried hardest in the Everglades City area only some 75 miles to the north and although I've caught some good-size tarpon the 100-pounders don't seem to take flies as

Bonefishing is a specialized use of the fly rod in that the fish is generally sighted before the cast is made. This "boner" has made his 100-yard run and is about to be picked up by the fly fisherman.



well as they do plugs in the dark waters of the mangroves; just the reverse of the situation on the Keys flats.

Nothing is quite as handy as the fly rod for working small, roadside canals. Fly rods can get you over a little patch of thick stuff at the canal's edge and in many places you can fish from the roadside in comfort. Even for salt water fish the smaller lures are likely to be better along the ditches.

I've fished bridges with fly tackle but it's an uphill struggle, especially if there is a crowd of fishermen plus passing autos. In the surf a fly outfit will work on close-in blues or mackerel. It's okay on some jetties with floating or sinking line dependent on what the fish want.

Bonefish, stalked on the South Florida flats, are about the most thrilling fly targets I know of. Nothing excites me so much, possibly because I had a rough time catching my first fish there. I stubbornly insisted on doing it without a guide and the resulting comedy was a lot more time consuming and expensive than simply going with someone who knew the score in the first place. Anyway, I still consider a hooked bonefish a cause for gleeful shouting and splashy jumping up and down.

It is much easier to catch bonefish on spinning tackle most of the time. The fly casts needn't be very long but they must be accomplished with a minimum of rod waving and a careful choice of direction. The instructions for catching a bonefish on a fly are very simple and very difficult to follow. I don't hold with those who say it's easy, especially with fish that see a lot of fishermen, and those who say it's easy either have little experience or have done it so often they've mastered it.

When casting to them a knowledge of bonefish habits is extremely helpful. His activities and movements are likely to be puzzling to the first timer. You generally need quick-sinking flies and a floating line with a medium long leader and a tippet around six pounds and I suspect the reports that bones are easy prey come from those occasional periods when they're very plentiful and very hungry. There have been times in the Bahamas when I figured bonefishing was pretty simple but a big, educated Keys specimen is spooky as a twice-missed pintail.

The rod for bonefish can be the same one you'd use for black bass, around eight or 8½ feet long and taking a No. 7 or 8 line. Although I scoff at many traditional fishing methods the way to really enjoy a bonefish is let him sizzle on a light drag and I don't like to see him stopped short. Of course it's hard to halt a whopper quickly anyway.

Funniest thing about fly fishing and the purpose of this entire dissertation is that a lot of fly fishermen are living in their own little world and don't know what the others are doing. You can make a fishing career by exploring a few of the possibilities. ●



## Vacation Camping

**F**LORIDA State Parks are gearing up for what promises to be a record tourist season this summer. Continuing improvement programs underway throughout the park system will enable Florida's 59 parks and historic memorials to offer more recreational facilities than ever before.

Tourists in state parks this summer can expect new and additional camping, swimming, boating, picnicking, hiking and historical attractions.

This year's traveler will find three new parks to visit: Cape Florida on Key Biscayne, Gannon Rocky Bayou near Niceville, and Koreshan at Estero. The latter two of these parks offer camping areas.

Six other new parks are presently under development and scheduled to be open to the public during the summer. They are the Forest Capital Center south of Perry, Grayton Beach at Grayton Beach, Jack Island at Fort Pierce, Ochlockonee River near Sopchoppy, Pahokee on Lake Okeechobee at Pahokee, and St. Joseph near Port St. Joe.

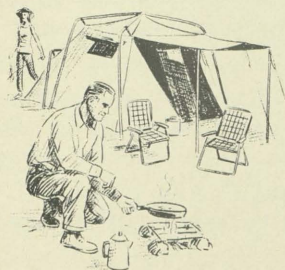
Forest Capital Center State Park will initially offer only picnicking facilities, but is planned to have a forestry museum.

Grayton Beach is a 356-acre park that will, when complete, offer swimming, family and youth camping, picnicking, fishing, and a boat ramp. The area includes pinewoods, fresh water lakes, sloping sand dunes and a mile of white, sandy beach on the Gulf of Mexico.

The 958-acre park at Jack Island is a tropical area surrounded by the St. Lucie River. This will be a preserve where huge flocks of birds and schools of fish can be observed in their natural habitat.

Ochlockonee River State Park covers 374 acres of a heavily-wooded land area, honeycombed with small ponds, and bound on the north by the Sopchoppy River and on the south by the Ochlockonee River. When complete, it will offer camping, picnicking, and boat ramp and dock.

Pahokee State Park tops the Hoover Dike on huge Lake Okeechobee in an unusual recreational location. This 30-acre park will offer camping, swimming, picnicking, boating and fishing.



For complete information about all State Parks, their facilities and available camping areas, write to:  
Florida Board of State Parks  
101 West Gaines Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32304

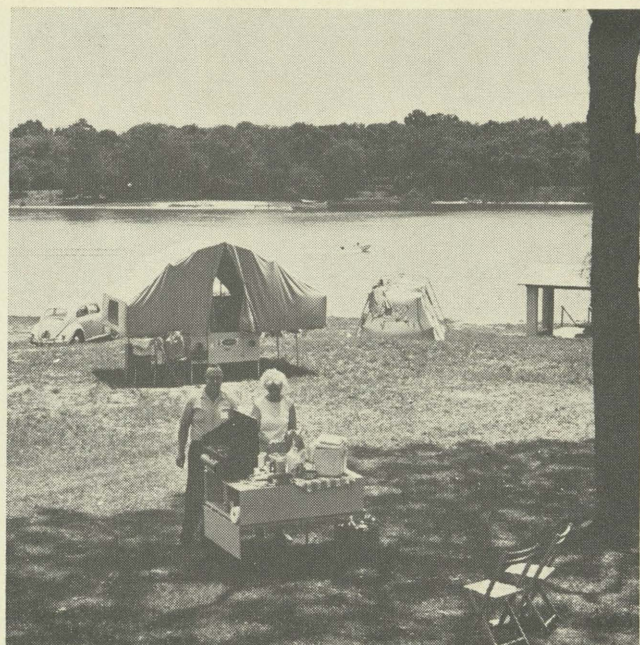


Photo By Gene Smith

There are more than 2,000 campsites available in 24 state parks. In addition to various types of campsites, the areas provide picnic tables and grills, as well as restrooms with hot and cold water, showers, lavatories and laundry tubs.

St. Joseph State Park, located on St. Joseph's Peninsula, covers 2,516 acres bordered by the Gulf of Mexico on one side and St. Joseph's Bay on the other. This is one of the most beautiful beaches in Florida. When complete, the park will offer camping, swimming, picnicking, a boat dock and marina.

Suwannee River State Park near Live Oak will offer swimming for the first time this summer, in a branch of the river made famous by Stephen Foster's melody.

Tomoka State Park near Ormond Beach has a new and unique museum featuring Indian artifacts from the area, as well as the art works of Fred Dana Marsh, who designed the statue of the Indian Chief Tomokie that is now the focal point of the park.

St. Andrews State Park at Panama City Beach boasts a restored "cracker" turpentine still, a vanished part of Florida's past.

There are night tours featuring the animals at Myakka River State Park near Sarasota, charter fishing boats for deep-sea fishing at Bahia Honda State Park on Bahia Honda Key, golfing on a 9-hole golf course at Florida Caverns State Park near Marianna, scenic railroad tours on a miniature train at Hugh Taylor Birch State Park in Fort Lauderdale—almost any type of recreation you can think of.

In other parks there are paddle boats, bicycles, fishing camps, snack bars, shuffleboard, tennis courts, souvenir shops, grocery stores, boat tours, and a multitude of other offerings. ●



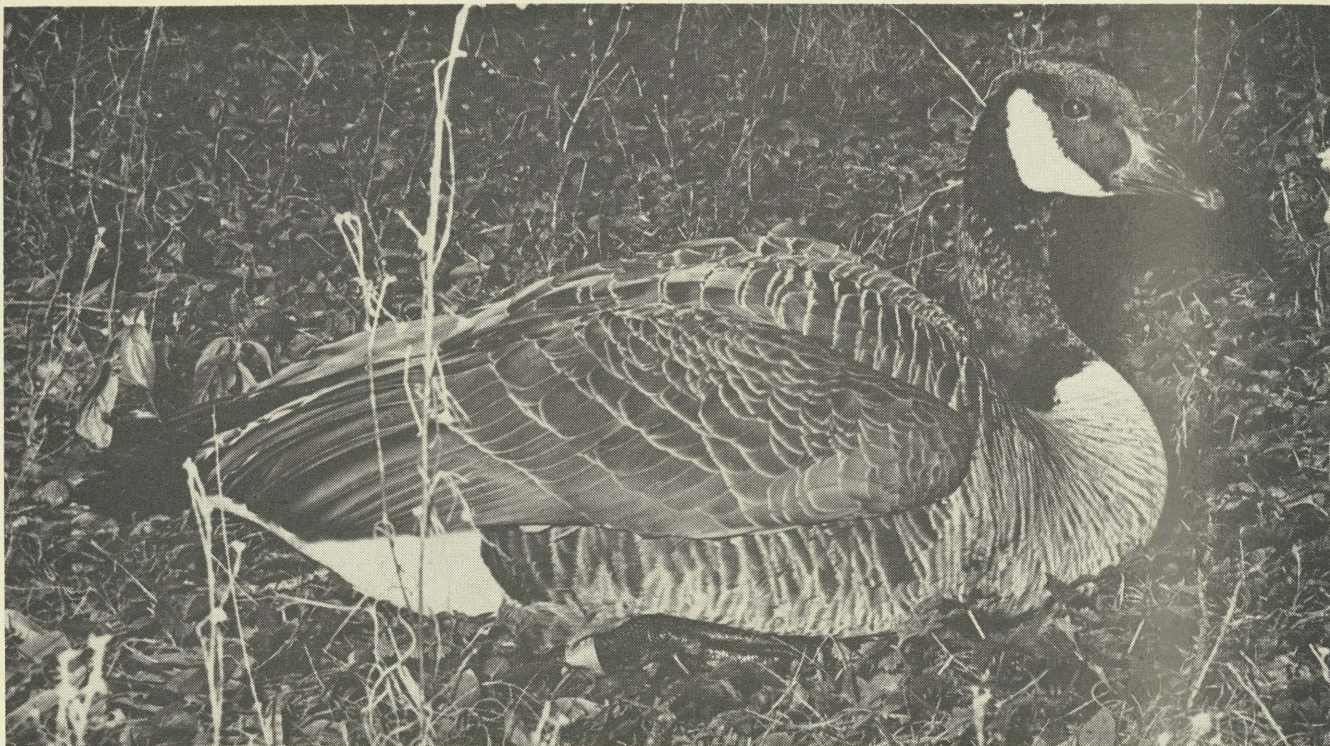


Photo By Gene Smith

Through management techniques, waterfowl specialists  
are hoping to "resell" Florida to the . . .

# Canada Goose

Photo By E. M. DeFoor



By ART HUTT

The nine-pound gander, above, has been banded and waits for the harmless drug effects to wear off before heading out to northern breeding grounds. The game biologists, left, at "goose processing station," record weights, measurements and sex during the banding operations.



THE CANADA MAY BE a "gone goose" in Florida by 1970 if the present diminishing trend continues, warns Dale Crider, head of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission's waterfowl research program.

The number of geese coming into Florida has decreased from over 25,000 down to 6,500 in the past 12 years; the annual hunting kill has dropped to about 100 birds from the 1,000 figure prior to 1959.

As in most biological responses to man's meddling, the answer is not a simple one. In fact, there may be no answer at all.

"We're almost at a loss," says Crider soberly, "but we're not licked yet."

To the hunter, the Canada goose is one of the most revered, respected, and romantic of all game birds, possessing "sagacity, wariness, strength, and fidelity . . ." as naturalist Francis Korkright put it.

The Canada goose group is a large one, with about a dozen subspecies which enables this group to include both the largest goose (the 20-pound giant Canada goose) and the smallest (the 5-pound cackling Canada goose).

Canada geese nest from the northern states up into the Arctic, using anything from a hollow on a barren beach to the top of a muskrat house to an old eagle's nest in a tree.

They lay an average of five eggs which take 28 to 30 days to incubate. Papa goose guards his mate and nest and is a formidable fighter against any intruders. Audubon himself was once hit so hard on the arm by the wing of an irate gander that he thought his arm had been broken.

Within two days after hatching, the fluffy youngsters follow the proud gander down to the water, with the mother goose waddling behind, keeping an eye on things.

As the youngsters gain feathers, the oldsters lose them in a molting process that keeps them earth (or water) bound for a month. By fall, the whole family is in good shape to participate in the traditional—and intriguing—migration. Without chart or compass, they head unerringly along their route, possibly guided by celestial bodies and physical features of the land. The honkers fly in their distinctive wedge-shaped formation so that the flock is benefited by the lowered wind resistance created at the energy and sacrifice of the head goose.

Geese usually mate for life in their second to fourth year and frequently when one is shot the other suffers the same fate by insisting upon standing by the dead or wounded mate.

The majority of Canada geese migrate at night, feeding at dawn and dusk wherever they can find nourishment, mainly in the forms of grain in the fall, or in green grass and tender shoots in the spring.

Happily, a goose's legs are located a little more forward than those of other waterfowl for better balance in making its forays on land.

To a waterfowl biologist, the Canada goose is a creature of habit and therefore easy to manage. And this easy-to-manage habit is part of the trouble.

Families of a particular race of the Canada geese nest in the same area year after year, migrating to and from the same place together without losing members of the race by splitting off. Thus they isolate their genetic traits, causing certain characteristics to become more pronounced.

The Florida "race" is short-billed, with definite black flaking in its cheek patch. Size is about 9 pounds for the male, about 6½ for the female.

According to Crider, the Florida-visiting race breeds in a sparse but specific area in the South Baffin Island and along the Hudson Straits in the Arctic. Whereas certain waterfowl nesting elsewhere may be facing problems of breeding ground destruction by man through drainage and pollution, the Florida Canada goose nesting ground is not thought to have anything working against it as few people ever visit the area.

So, destruction of breeding habitat is not a dominant factor in the diminishing Florida population.

When a flock of geese migrate South, they're not like tourists trying to get into the tropics or semitropics. They're looking for two things—open water and food. At one time, speaking in generalities, there wasn't much between the Arctic and the coastal area of the Southeast for a south-bound goose to lower its landing gear for.

*(Continued on next page)*

Photo By Gene Smith



The numbered band attached to the leg of a wild goose is the key to data results from experimental studies.



(Continued from preceding page)

But despite strong traditions to the contrary, the geese are stopping off further north. The attractions have changed in the past 20 years. In the Mississippi Flyway, TVA Lakes—the Great Lakes of the South—with their open waters, beckon alluringly. The switch to agriculture along the Atlantic Flyway and the expanded use of mechanical crop pickers which miss a lot of grain, have left high energy foods available. The increase of hunters, particularly in the Chesapeake Bay area, has caused the development of private hunting clubs which go all out to *manage their lands* to attract waterfowl.

So even the populations of geese which kept flying southward have succumbed to the Lorelei of open water and food.

This delayed migrating or short-circuiting of the Florida race of Canada geese is the heart of our problem.

Crider's project, nearly wholly supported by Pittman-Robertson federal aid funds, is to find the ways to coax these birds into Florida again.

Crider, a guitar-strumming Kentuckian who plays (and sings) in the "Wildlife Boys," a Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission combo, is a University of Missouri graduate in wildlife management, has done waterfowl research at a post-graduate level, and has been employed as a researcher in Wisconsin and North Dakota with the Fish and Wildlife Service. He's been working with Florida waterfowl for three years.

Combining his experience and the experience of other waterfowl specialists, Crider is not without ideas on what can be done.

One of the first matters on hand is to establish proof that the Florida race of Canada geese is being slowed down by food and open water along the Atlantic Flyway and then shot up, particularly in the

Chesapeake Bay area. These birds start to leave the Arctic during the first part of August with the bulk leaving by the full moon in September (the majority depart Florida during the full moon in March, the rest leave in April).

Band returns indicate that "our" geese are being killed early in the Chesapeake Bay area; hunting kill figures there have advanced almost in direct proportion to the amount Florida's figures have gone down.

Fortunately, the Waterfowl Council and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (as a migratory bird, the Canada goose is under federal control) work harmoniously in trying to parcel these birds out so each state will get its share.

If Crider, through band returns, can provide the facts of this "interception," the Fish and Wildlife Service may provide a "kill quota" for Maryland and other key states to discourage the private landowner and clubs from "over-graining" their grounds to stop the birds. Once the quota would be killed, the season would close and there's be no sense to all the grain.

Another possibility under investigation is to set the northerly hunting season back by a month to allow the Florida-bound birds to get safely by. This possible early overhunting in Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia perhaps decimates the family groupings to a point where the segments of families then join flocks which are not heading for Florida.

Holding the season until late November would not seriously bother the three-state hunting as these areas have ample populations in the months following November.

In a theory which takes advantage of the Canada goose's traditional migration pattern, Crider intends to capture 600 immature birds in Maryland, then move them down to Florida.

Photo By Gene Smith



The "drugged bait" method of capturing wild geese, left, is a proven harmless operation, and will be used to bring honkers to Florida for possible winter-home enticement. Winter population of Canada geese in this state is about one-quarter the total that flew in ten years ago, top right, and all-out efforts are underway to attract greater numbers of flocks this way. Waterfowl biologist Dale Crider, at right, ponders over the possible fate of this state's future as a wild goose hunting area.





Photo By Wallace Hughes

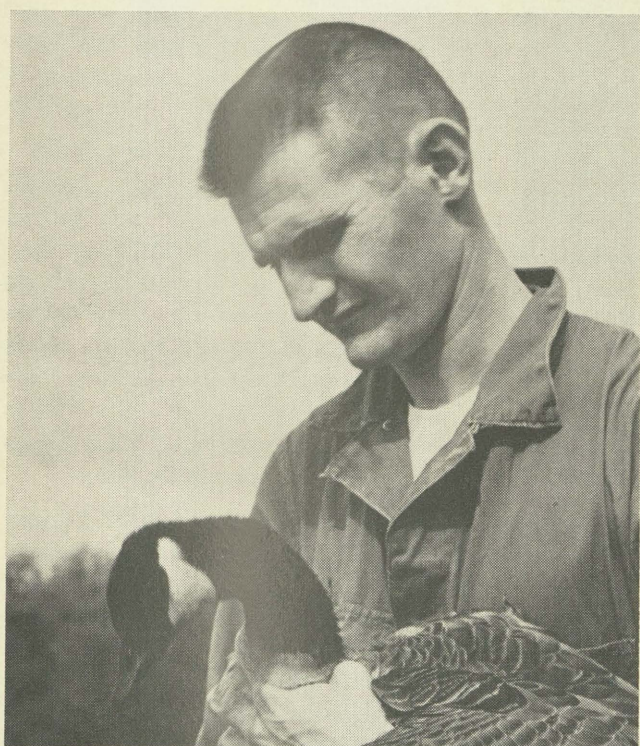


Photo By Jim Floyd

While capturing 600 geese sounds like a chore, techniques developed by Florida biologists have simplified the process—and may lead to more geese banded than ever before and consequently a better picture of the situation.

Drugged bait is laid out for the geese, they become tranquilized or anaesthetized, and can be easily picked up. There are no harmful after effects.

Crider hopes to take these 600 from a variety of family units and play host to them in the Sunshine State. Lavishly wined and dined (he wants them to come back!) and penned, he'll release 200 to go back with the Florida Canada geese at northerly migration time. Then 200 the next year, and the final 200 the third year.

He hopes they'll "fit in" with the Florida birds—and return the next year with their families. Banding records will tell if any of these birds developed an affection for Florida.

This work is being done at study areas near Tallahassee.

Another theory being worked on revolves around the family leaders. Each flock usually has one strong, old gander who may socially dominate other geese because it knows the ropes, or routes as the case may be.

Leaders from northerly wintering flocks will be brought to Florida: a few Florida leaders will be moved up to the northern areas. Where these birds end up and what they bring with them, once they are freed, will determine whether the leaders will honor their last residence or their first.

These geese will be distinctively marked for ready identification by the use of bright colored neck bands.

Florida biologists are also investigating the possibility of raising goslings in Florida, releasing them to migrate north, hoping they'll return with a family and friends. It just may prove cheaper to hand raise stock to bring back wintering geese.

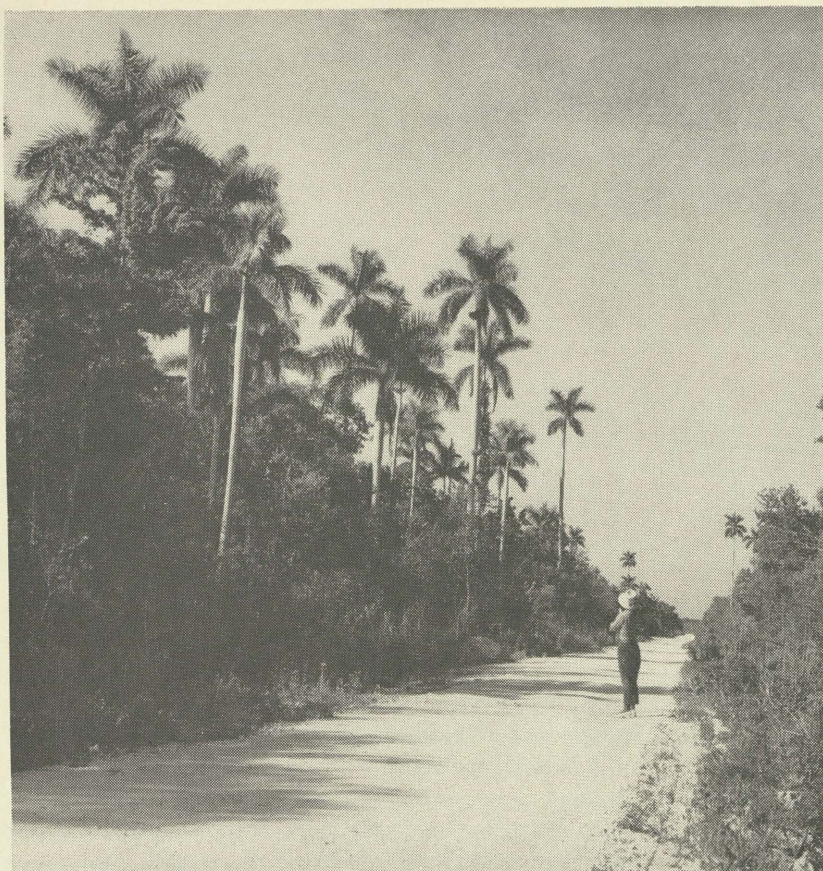
The giant Canada goose has shown a tendency to nest further south than any other subspecies. Many states have taken advantage of this trait, and are working at ways to make the big birds stay native.

From private and state propagators, Florida is acquiring these big honkers that carry the southerly nesting characteristics and will try to convince these birds to adopt Florida as their year around home.

These geese are big—up to 20 pounds. They'll nest on platforms over the water where they are relatively safe from predators. Washtubs on posts make suitable nesting sites.

Only time will tell if none, a few, or all of these ideas will pay off to provide future goose hunting in Florida. ●





Wild royal palms can be seen growing along the Collier County Scenic Road—built on an old logging tramway—deep in southwest Florida.

All forms of wildlife, scenic beauty and the remains of old logging operations can be viewed from Collier County's

## Scenic Road

By MAX HUNN

IT'S A WINDING, GRAVELED road on an old, logging tramway leading nowhere but deep into the Fakahatchee swamp. Yet it affords a glimpse of the 19th century, primitive, peaceful Florida that's fast disappearing in the 20th century's mad race for progress with bulldozers and real estate developments.

If you don't like wilderness quiet you can almost hear, don't go! But if you like to listen to the melodious calls of birds instead of the mechanical braying of autos; to spy shy deer drinking from wilderness waterholes; glimpse wild turkeys fluttering to the safety of the woods, and drive through tangled, picturesque wilderness beauty, then you'll enjoy this side trip in southwest Florida's Collier county.

Collier County is truly one of Florida's last frontiers, only now achieving the tourist limelight, and growing as chunks of long-held, privately-owned land are being released to the public and new enterprise slowly seeps into the area.

Officially this highway-to-wilderness adventure is the Collier County Scenic Road Park, and there's a story behind this jaw-breaking nomenclature. But first to find it. To travel this little known road, you take Florida 29 highway south from Immokalee or north from the Everglades junction with the Tamiami Trail (U. S. 41), which is approximately 80 miles west of Miami, to the little hamlet of Cope-

land. Ease up on the throttle, or you'll pass Cope-land before you know it. It's no metropolis.

On the southern outskirts of this former lumber mill village, now sleeping quietly on past laurels in the Big Cypress, you find Secondary Road 837 turning west off Florida 29. Road 837 officially collapses a short distance after leaving Florida 29 near the old Lee Tidewater cypress lumber mill, now only a collection of gently aging, gently graying buildings, and a few houses. The cypress logging operations ceased years ago as the last of the useable cypress trees were cut. The era is gone.

By taking a sharp right turn, you start your adventure into this bit of primitive Florida that's changed little since the 19th century. You'd never travel this ex-logging tramway had not Collier County graded and covered the old roadway with gravel, creating an all-weather road through the southern edge of the Fakahatchee Swamp.

The road-to-nowhere meanders 13-odd miles west-northwest through the swamp and pinelands, but only a little more than the first seven have been reconditioned. If you're venturesome, in dry weather, you can drive the entire 13 miles, but most people are content with the reconditioned section which reaches a wild grove of royal palms. This is one of the few places you can see these



beautiful, towering trees growing wild in Florida, and it was from here that the royal palms which grace the entrance to Hialeah race track were brought in the 1930s. It was a nursery transplanting project of the first magnitude—floating the live, mature trees out and then hoisting them by cranes onto waiting trucks near Copeland and hauling them to Hialeah via the then almost new Tamiami Trail.

Driving slowly along the old tramway, you see the uprooted ties from the primitive, logging railroad. During the height of the timber cutting, logging railroads were built, dismantled, moved and rebuilt with abandon throughout the Big Cypress, being shifted as soon as the logging operations moved. The old steam engine's long gone, the rails have been removed, and many of the old ties dumped by the side of the road, yet you feel part of that era. You see huge cypress stumps—some blackened by ancient and recent fires—from which wild ferns are growing as the wilderness recovers its own.

During the dry season, the pot holes and canals created to get dirt fill for the tramway are dry, but during the rainy season they're water-filled and host to bass, bream and other freshwater fish. Gar fish thrash noisily on the surface of the water, and husky bowfins smash about seeking a meal. Sometimes vultures, nature's garbage crew, soar overhead awaiting a cleanup detail.

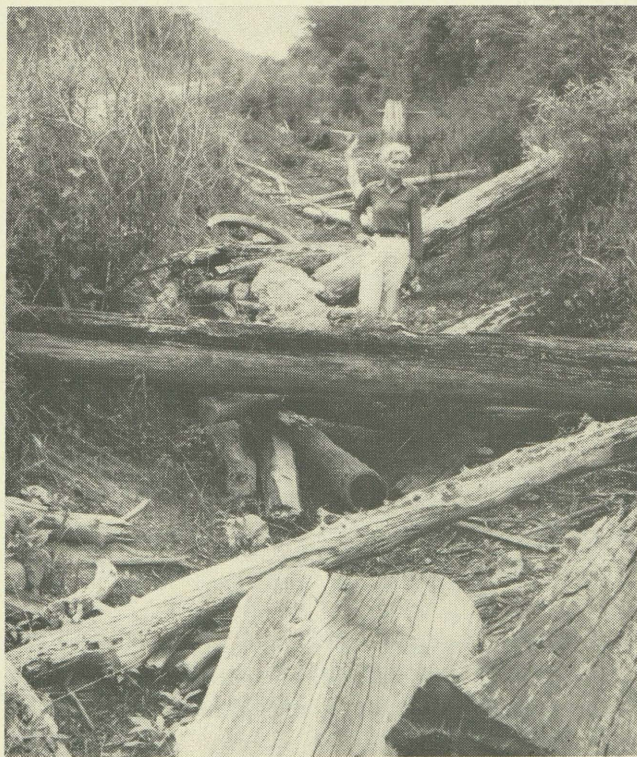
The swamp is a tangled mass of indescribable, primitive beauty, and you're afforded an unparalleled view. Seldom can you view such rugged country from modern, low-slung autos, and only a few hunters have seen it by swamp buggy. Air plants grow in profusion, especially in the cypress, and for the sharp-eyed, there're wild orchids.

If you're making the trip early or late in the day, actually two of the most interesting times, there're good chances to see wild deer. In fact deer were so plentiful (as were poachers still unconverted to conservation in Collier county) that the Florida legislature passed a local bill authorizing the establishment of the Collier County Scenic Road Park. This legislation extends the park along the entire roadway, enabling wildlife officers to curb illegal deer hunting.

If you've sharp eyes, you can see raccoons eyeing you, perhaps a blinking owl staring from his tree perch, and a great white heron squawks as you invade his domain. Bird life is plentiful. More than likely you'll see American egrets, herons, ibis, limpkins and other South Florida birds. But like all wildlife, they're shy and binoculars are helpful.

It's a roadway of yesteryear, of a time when peace and quiet were plentiful, and few 20th century travelers regret sampling this once abundant face of Florida which is becoming harder and harder to find as the Space Age hurtles onward. ●

There's fish in the pot holes along the old roadway, left, leading into the Fakahatchee Swamp. Ruins of the long gone cypress logging operations are plainly visible, at right, from the graded scenic road-to-nowhere.







The red mangrove tree stretches "spidery legs" into the water, in all directions, and is nature's way of preventing constant beach erosion.

## ***Florida's Walking Forests***

Like a huge spider the land-building red mangrove stalks into the sea and, in so doing, helps provide for some of the finest sport fishing

By JOHN FIX

**T**HESE ARE DAYS of growing concern over Florida's seacoasts which are slowly but relentlessly being sucked into the sea. So, it is heartening to consider the red mangrove.

The red mangrove is the enemy of beach erosion; a plain, hard working little tree, dedicated to the unique task of extending land masses into water areas. And in the process the red mangrove sets up conditions that result in some of the best sport fishing in the world.

The red mangrove is as familiar to Florida residents and their visitors as is sawgrass and the sabal palm. The Florida Keys owe the greater part of their existence to the red mangrove. So do the fabulous Ten Thousand Islands, that Eden of fishermen off the Florida southwest coast.

The red mangrove is not a pretty plant, squat as

it is and seldom exceeding 15 feet in height. Once in a while, however, a stand of mangroves in a particularly sheltered area will tower a breathtaking 70 feet into the blue Florida sky. Generally, the red mangrove hugs the seacoast and inches forward on its stilt-like legs, building land as it goes. Those spindly legs, which are actually the root system of the tree, may arch forward as far as 40 feet. They twine and intertwine, cross and criss-cross with other mangrove roots to form an impenetrable forest. Wherever an arching branch gains a roothold, a new red mangrove is born.

In these tangles of roots, protected from the enemies of open waters, lurk exciting Florida game fish; the sea trout, tarpon, snapper, mackerel and the snook, restless, venturesome and—perpetually hungry.





Mangroves form an impenetrable jungle, left, along south Florida's seacoasts, and provide homes for many wildlife varieties. Stilt-like roots of seedling mangroves, right, arch outward and accumulate plant and animal debris quantities which, decomposing, will form into soil.

Also in these tangles of roots is shared the floating debris; dead leaves, animal life, plankton and seaweed which, decomposing, forms the earliest ingredient of new Florida soil.

Builders ruthlessly bulldoze the red mangrove but in spite of their depredations it manages somehow to survive. Occasionally the bulldozer will set young trees drifting and these may continue to drift for a year or more, until they find a resting place. Then long roots begin to sprout—sometimes attaining a foot of growth the first day—and a new mangrove is born.

The red mangrove can tolerate neither cold nor fire. The "mangrove line" is regarded as the "frost line." It also marks the extent to which a fire has spread. In addition, the red mangrove is an indicator of the elevation of land. Since its roots must have a daily inundation of water for the tree to survive, wise buyers selecting land know that wherever they see a stand of red mangroves they can be certain that that land is under water part of the time.

But though the red mangrove must have regular abluitions, it will die if its roots are completely immersed for a long period. Daily bathing is effected through the rise and fall of the tides. The period when the roots are above water is a critical one

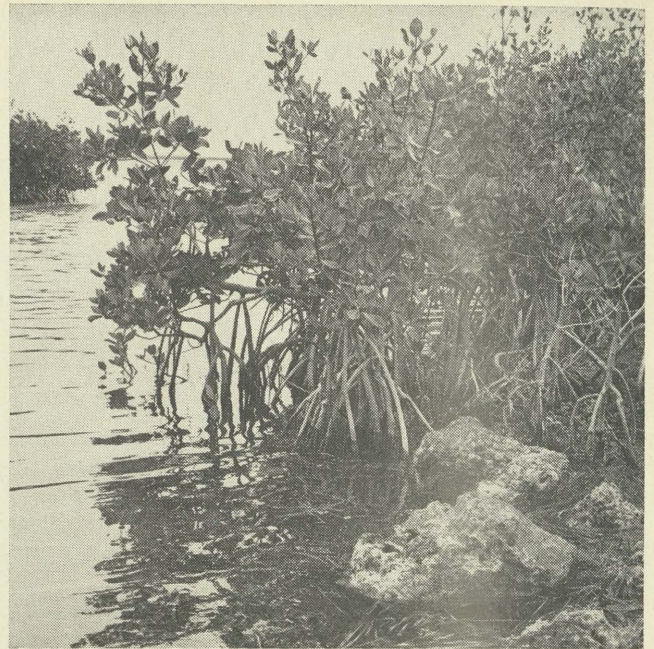
since the roots are the oxygen gatherers for the plant. Should a mangrove through some accident become stranded above the water line, that mangrove will die.

The red mangrove has sparse leaves which stay green all winter. It bears small yellow 4-petaled flowers which, as they mature, are replaced by cone-shaped brown pods about an inch long. The seeds in the pods sprout while the pods are still attached to the tree and attain a length of 8 to 10 inches before dropping to the ground or into the water.

In addition to the red mangrove, there is the white mangrove (or buttonwood) and the black mangrove. Each of the three varieties has distinctive root systems. The white mangrove has conventional roots; the roots of the black mangrove are an assortment of slender asparagus-like shoots that resemble the bristles of a gigantic hair brush protruding from the soil at the base of the tree. Each of the mangroves—but particularly the red mangrove—traps and holds debris which eventually becomes soil.

Today there are few great mangrove forests such as the one that existed in Everglades National Park prior to the devastating visit of Hurricane Donna  
(Continued on next page)





The asparagus-like roots of black mangrove trees, left, almost resemble the bristles of a giant hairbrush. The red mangroves, at right, are busy with their land building in the Florida Keys.

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in the fall of 1960. This forest was so spectacular that park authorities decided to make it one of the major tourist attractions of the Park. They erected an extensive boardwalk a few feet above the swamp to channel visitors into the heart of the forest where the trees were wreathed in wild orchids and air plants and where the birds and insects of the sub-tropical swampland abounded.

But before Mangrove Forest (as it was named) could be opened to visitors, the hurricane struck the Park with winds of nearly 200 miles an hour. The boardwalk became a shambles of twisted cypress; the Mangrove Forest a graveyard of dead and dying trees. The stench of gases released from the swamp by the agonized threshing of the trees polluted the air. The once-sparkling waters of Whitewater Bay were left black with the tannic acid contained in the mangrove bark. Skeletons of the trees bleached in the sun. More than 96% of the red mangroves had been destroyed.

Scientists later explained that the high mortality had been caused by the released gases, particularly hydrogen sulphur gas which is deadly to both plants and animals.

But while the red mangrove trees died, their stilt-like roots remained firmly embedded in the primitive soil of their own making. And as of yore they continued to trap the flotsam and jetsam of the sea. And here the few surviving seedlings found refuge and sprouted.

It had been estimated that decades, perhaps as much as a century, would be required for Mangrove Forest to regain a glimmering of its past glory. But already a new growth is veiling the bleached bones of the old forest, and the birds, insects and shade-loving plants of the swampland are making a timid appearance. The doughty red mangrove is winning its battle for survival.

The usefulness of the red mangrove is not limited to its soil building properties or its beneficence as a haven for fish. The wood of the red mangrove when stained is scarcely distinguishable from mahogany and is used for the fabrication of fine furniture. The tannic acid found in its bark is used for the tanning of leather and as a chemical agent with various dyes. The water resistant wood of the red mangrove makes fine docks and piers. Early settlers used it extensively for the building of log roads. Bees show a preference for the delicate blossoms of the red mangrove and from their pollen make a delectable honey which has a unique flavor.

So the lowly mangrove we pass by in our travels through Florida with scarcely a passing glance, looms large as a benefactor of man. Quietly, without flamboyance, it goes about its appointed task of land building.

But if the foregoing might have inspired you to increase your waterfront holding or to set up a fish spawning ground in your back yard with the planting of a few mangrove seedlings, dispel the thought. The red mangrove is one of the few plants on earth which no one has successfully transplanted. ●



# Weedless Lures

FISHING



By CHARLES WATERMAN

This is a place that can boast of many kinds of underwater conditions, creating needs for variety gear and techniques

THERE'S MORE THAN the word "weedless" to a lure for obstructed water and some bitter souls say "weedless" and "fishless" are synonomous terms. I admit that weedless apparatus doesn't assist in fish hooking.

The pork chunk and pork frog are attractive additions to many spoons, spinners and wigglers, but many go through life without realizing that they actually contribute to the weedlessness of a bait without hampering its hooking qualities.

Used with a spoon such as the Johnson or the Weed Wing, the pork frog especially keeps the bait right side up and causes it to avoid a lot of junk. Down in Okeechobee the other day two of us caught some nice bass with Weed Wings, yanking them through pepper and eel grass, and both of us concluded the pork frog was a big help in avoiding hangups. When we used the porkrind strips we'd get into trouble right away.

Such weedless ones have always worked best for me when worked fast and my most successful operations consist of pulling the spoon on top for a distance and then letting it dive into a pocket. I like the sputter of the Weed Wing but that big, heavy spinner is rough on line if it gets tangled. For that matter weed fishing is always tough on braided line and if you want to be extra careful a piece of monofilament spliced to braided casting line will save wear and tear.

I don't like spinning tackle for weed fishing. If you get it heavy enough to handle the lures it's too heavy for pleasant casting. A spin cast reel might be better than an open spinning reel. My own preference is a conventional plugcasting outfit

with about 15-pound test braided line and a monofilament tippet if you're actually going through grass rather than over it.

This is no place for a delicate rod and you save a lot of trouble if your outfit is heavy enough to simply yank hangups loose. I like a 5-foot casting rod with a lot of backbone and then go to lures of at least half an ounce. Five-eighths is better for me.

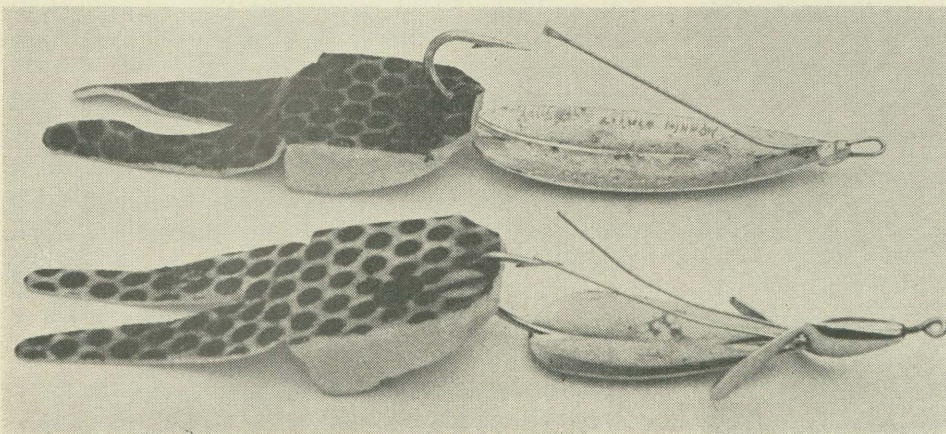
I also fly fish the hayfields using two general types of bugs. Generally it's a hair-legged frog that rides with the hook up but sometimes I use a smaller bug with a hook shank so small it will cut through the grass. I use a heavy, salt water fly rod that I can lean on with both hands against either fish or grass and the leader is a full 10-pound test at the tippet.

The best part of the fly fishing bit is that the popping bug can be fished slowly whereas sinking lures must be kept moving—not necessarily a bad feature most of the time but less productive on those days when the fish are lazy.

Weedless surface plugs are seldom good hookers unless the fish are really large. Most of them use one hook riding up with wire guards over it and any other hooks are either wire guarded or turned back to avoid the grass. I've failed to hook a lot of 2-pound bass on such lures but use them anyway.

I'm a poor eel and worm fisherman and when I see a weedless worm I always figure you should set the hook as soon as the fish strikes and takes off. However, I've been told that a bass will some-

*(Continued on next page)*



These two weedless spoons, Johnson and Silver Minnow, are stabilized by the use of pork-frogs and can be skittered through vegetation which would hang a spoon with pork rind.



(Continued from preceding page)

times swallow the whole works, wire weed guard and all.

With light tackle or a cane pole you can get by with only a pork frog, pork chunk or big rind and a simple, weedless hook. Rinds with trailer hooks attached will work through most grassy waters but they're not so good in the thickest of Okeechobee's weeds.

Incidentally, the pork frog or chunk will do a good job over lily pads and by keeping a single hook upright it keeps you from getting down into the stems which seem to corral almost any lure that passes with a sideways hook.

Short casts are wise in heavily weeded or bonneted water. A good fish a hundred feet away can get you into a lot of trouble and probably will. A long rod helps you hold his head up but won't give you enough leverage in other instances. With a fly rod I keep the casts to less than 50 feet and use a lot of muscle when I get a strike, sometimes having to dodge an airborne bass of more than half a pound. Pretty crude stuff but sometimes productive.

A hung-up bass in heavy cover isn't necessarily lost if you use a big, strong net. Another method is to gently follow the line down by hand until you can get his lip in your fingers. The latter method generally leaves you pretty wet. Handlin' him is bad business.

THE FENWICK PEOPLE are making a fly rod that takes an insert when you're fighting a heavy fish. It's a normal casting rod without the stiff, hollow glass section that goes inside. The idea is that you don't need all of that backbone until the fish has

made his first run or two anyway as you just give him line at first; then when you want to lean on him you stick the heavy insert into an opening in the butt and you can take both hands to do the job.

For some years there have been detachable butts for heavy fly fishing. They'd get in the way if left on the rod while casting so they're carried as an accessory.

I FOUND SOME EXCELLENT bass fishing in the depths of the Florida Flood Control District in the Everglades a while back. Water conditions have been good for bass fishing along the Tamiami Trail and the week-end crowds have been something to behold.

The beer cans are piling high, discarded gar and mudfish stink to high heaven and the whole picture along the scenic highway is typical of what happens when a big city makes a backyard out of what was once picturesque back country.

It would take a regiment of police to stop the smelly littering and gin bottle breakage but if you get away from the highway in a boat the gunk clears away and you can at least see the water, nice Everglades water with plenty of bass and panfish.

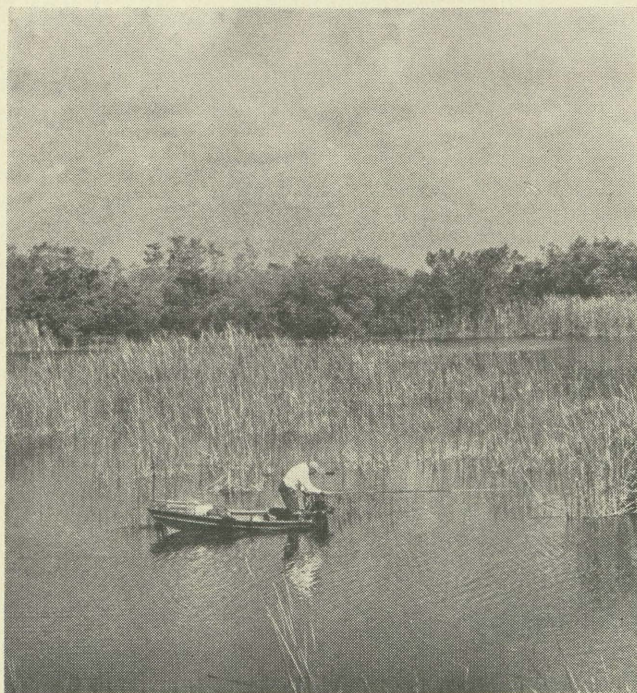
Most of the best fishing is pretty well back. Jack Gowdy and I put a 10-foot aluminum pram into a canal and overpowered it with a 9½-horse motor after which we ran eight miles to the canal's dead end. Then we unloaded the boat, carried it over the dike and plopped it into another canal. By this time the debris was pretty well thinned out and so were the fishermen.

A lot of people had made the first eight miles but didn't want to carry their boats overland—or had boats too heavy in the first place.

We ran about four miles from where we put in and didn't see another fisherman up there all afternoon. It was cloudy, cool and pretty windy and the fish struck steadily.

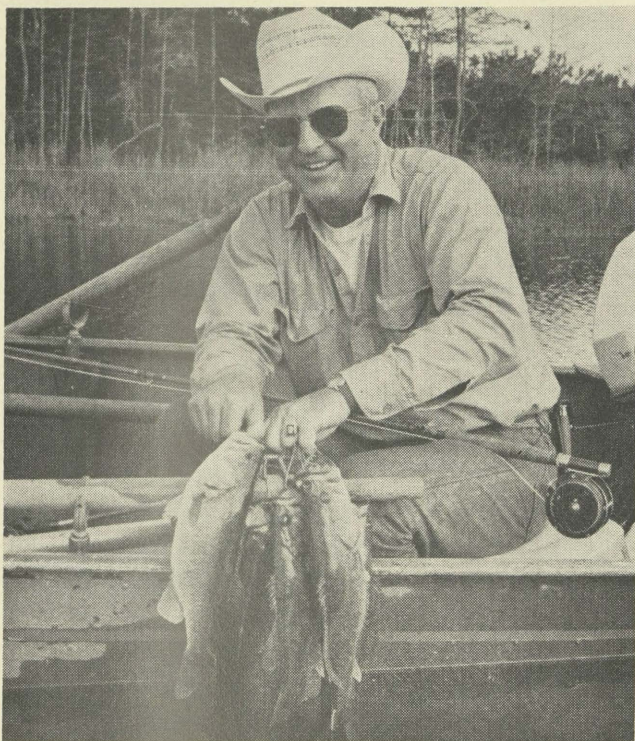
Surface lures seemed to be best. We caught most of our fish on fly rod popping bugs but surface casting lures were almost as good. The canal was deep but overflowed into the sawgrass in places. Generally we found some good fish where cypress forest crowded to the water's edge but others came from rocky places and just plain grass.

Weedless lures weren't necessary and the bass had few obstacles to tangle you in. They went up to a bit better than three pounds and there were a lot of 2-pounders, most of them taking rather gently but full of steam when you set the hook. Just the day before we had fished a spot where the



There's plenty of fishing in spots like this, a small flooded area just off a FCD canal in south Florida.





Not all of the Everglades canal bass are whoppers, but there are plenty this size, if you get back from the highways a bit.

fish made explosive strikes but were never as big as you expected when they came to net.

Just when we figured we were pretty hot fishermen we ran into a couple of fellows who had been wading back in the potholes and had bass that made ours look like baitfish. The more trouble you were willing to take the better the catch.

A good plug caster from Illinois named Jack Horner had been doing a fine job with a very small boat and poling well back into the grass and bonnets. He came up with one fish that went more than seven pounds, a whopper for that part of the state. He used both surface plugs and wigglers.

The answer in that country, as everywhere else, is careful inquiry as conditions change with the water level and temperatures. By the time this is printed I suspect the better bass fishing will be in the deeper holes.

Anywhere you find back country like the Everglades you'll find people who get to where the fishing is and thousands of others who simply move around the edges.

Most of the flood control dikes could be driven with a car but they're largely closed to the public for obvious reasons of safety. Now and then a swamp buggy appears on one without bothering to find a gate.

I saw some enterprising frog hunters who waded a shallow place in one canal and carried a motor scooter with them. Then, once on the dike they wanted to travel they went sputtering off with a

frog gig and a paddle. I assume they had some sort of boat stashed back in there somewhere.

I've often said a quarter mile of walking will eliminate most fishermen and it gets truer every day but there are some characters who are going to get there by one means or another and the phrase, "virgin fishing water" doesn't fit much of Florida any more.

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POPPING BUGS ARE SELDOM torn up by fish but fishermen sure smash them up. Generally it's in unhooking a fish that you wreck the cork, balsa or plastic body. It's natural to take hold of the bug body instead of a hook and something has to give. A bug body usually holds the hook simply by a bend in the shank secured by stickum and no matter how carefully the bug is built it won't withstand hard twisting.

If you want to triple the life of bugs use a hook disgorging of some sort or a pair of needle-nosed pliers. Even one of those little U-shaped gadgets that comes on a nail-clip type fisherman's tool is better than nothing. You can take a small stick and push the hook out if it's well down in the fish's throat; then imbed the point in the stick by pulling on the leader and bring out the whole works.

I've killed a lot of small fish by prodding around with my finger and getting the hook further and further down.

There is a temptation to use a bug that's too small when a lot of little fellows are biting. Even if you don't want them they can drive you ape by striking and getting away so you put on a tiny bug and they start swallowing it. Then getting the bug back means a dead fish.

But if you want your 85-cent bug to last for more than a few fish try to take hold of the hook instead of the body when you unstick him.

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THERE HAS BEEN so much talk about limp nylon, which is a great help in spinning or plug casting, that a fly fisherman who confesses he wants stiff leader material is viewed with suspicion.

A stiff leader helps to "turn over" the cast, especially if the fly is light and wind resistant. There is also another application of stiff monofilament that most of us never thought of.

When using a fly or small lure on the very bottom of a body of water with current the stiff leader will help prevent tangling. If the lure happens to be upstream from very limp material it will tend to drift down on top of the leader or line and cause knots.

This isn't considered important by a lot of fishermen and some say the limper the better no matter what kind of rig you're using.

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I READ A COLUMN BY Grits Gresham of Louisiana,  
(Continued on next page)



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in which he mentions some life saving devices which are not Coast Guard approved but a lot of help to a man over his head in water. Grits points out the difficulty of grabbing a life cushion in a sudden emergency and refers to the little cartridge type Res-Q-Pak which turns into a pair of waterwings in a hurry. He also favors the buoyant jackets sold by many first class outfitters.

Most of these things are not Coast Guard approved.

Like Grits, I don't know just what standards are applied to equipment that must meet approval. Undoubtedly some of the emergency devices are considered too flimsy and thus require more care than the average boatman will give them. That doesn't mean they won't work.

Few of us are willing to wear heavy, life preserver jackets in hot weather and I don't wear them at all unless weather or water looks pretty rugged.

Coast Guard specs must be met but there are a lot of accessories that may save your life without a tag or stamp.

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THE HYACINTH disagreements among fishermen are now pretty well boiled down to the opinion that hyacinths should be controlled but that too much treatment destroys shoreline cover and hurts fishing. The desired policy would be one of moderation.

Many observers have felt that dead and decaying hyacinths on the bottom have a bad effect on fishing and I'm sure they're right, at least in the early stages of decomposition, but a different angle came up last winter when a crappie fisherman told me some of his hotspots were in areas where sunken hyacinths had been rotting for several years. There was virtually no current in these spots and he felt the bottom that eventually formed from the decomposed matter was especially attractive to the fish.

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I NOW ASK A QUESTION of any and all. What is this business of turning an open faced spinning reel up on top of the rod and retrieving by winding the handle backward?

The first time I saw it I went into coarse laughter figuring the fisherman didn't know what he was doing but there can't be *that* many fishermen lost in the intricacies of spinning.

I have seen so many reels operated this way in the past six months that I am now ashamed to ask the fishermen about it face to face.

Would someone please send me an answer to this in a plain envelope?

I just want to know. ●

## Game Management Notes

THE LAUGHABLE, LOVABLE clown of the salty airways, the brown pelican, is in deep trouble. While there has been no serious problem in Florida (as yet!), this over-six-foot-wing-spanned oddball has been progressively dying off along the Gulf Coast since 1958, much to the general sorrow of everybody but to the particular sorrow of Louisiana which rates it as their state bird. And in South Carolina last year, there was a tremendous mortality.

Whether awkwardly plunging from 60 to 70 feet into the water for its food or gracefully skimming the wave tops in V's or long staggered rows, this common-to-Florida bird is a curiosity that deserves a permanent place in the Florida landscape. In fact, with the exception of the winter-visiting white pelican, this is our *only* pelican.

To forestall an unhappy eventuality, Commission biologists Lovett Williams (Gainesville) and Larry Martin (Ocala) have set up a research project designed, hopefully, to come up with some of the answers. Basically, they'll try to discover the causes of the ups and downs of the pelican population and try to prevent any abnormal population declines.

Their approach will be through a Florida population count by locating colonies, literature research, and aerial surveys. At this writing, their "educated guess" numbers the birds in Florida at 20,000.

Next, they'll try to figure out the nesting success in three widely separated colonies (Ormond Beach, Bush Key at St. Petersburg, and Indian Key Pass in the Ten Thousand Islands), and with bird banding and dyes, determine pelican movement habits in Florida.

But the most important phase of the activity will center around the possibility that pesticides or other chemicals may have something to do with this die-off. Possible contamination will be looked for in pelican food items, in regurgitated food of nestlings, in eggs, and in a few live nestlings and adults themselves.

Once an answer is found, the brown pelican will have a better chance of survival.

Would you like to help this investigation?

If you live in an area where the birds are present and want to volunteer your services as a "brown pelican watcher," write Lovett Williams, Research Biologist, at the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission office in Gainesville. Mainly, he'll want to know about dead or sick pelicans but a note to him will bring back information on exactly what he needs.

Florida biologists believe this type of die-off could happen to many different birds. The pelican study will help them get a headstart on determining causes of these mortalities.





Photo By Lovett Williams

The brown pelican, always an eye-catching attraction along the coasts, seems to be disappearing for unknown reasons.

**Wanted:** A GAME SPECIES of aquatic-type deer suitable for browsing in belly deep Florida marsh areas, such as the Everglades.

This could be a logical advertisement by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

But in one of their long-range programs, the Commission has several candidates under consideration. One is the South American swamp deer.

Another, and it is a fascinating story, is the sambar deer, a native of India which weighs 500 to 600 pounds, likes marsh vegetation, is actually an antlerless elk—and it has thrived on an island in Florida since 1909.

In that year, a Dr. Pierce put a few of these animals on his 1,400 acre private island (St. Vincents), along with a few zebras and other assorted hoofed Africa animals. While the zebras and the others have responded to a daily feeding, the sambar deer have preferred to dine out in the island's marshes.

While the deal has not been firmed up (the island is in the process of changing hands), Florida biologists are hoping their "bargain" of trading 20 wild turkeys for 8 sambar deer will eventually materialize.

They'd place these deer in fenced areas enclosing a variety of habitats, then watch these deer to see exactly what they prefer. If they'd work out, these sambar deer would be under strong consideration for stocking in marshy areas.

From superficial surveillance, one drawback seems to be that these big animals are not wary enough. This, too, will have to be analyzed.

Occasionally a sambar deer swims to the mainland—much to the delight of a startled but hungry nimrod.

IN THE BIRD world, the cattle egret is an unqualified success. For without the help of man, it has established itself in North America, presumably continent-hopping from Africa to South America to North America.

In the space of 14 years, the cattle egret has become a permanent and populous addition to the local landscape.

Unlike the other aquatic-minded egrets (American, snowy), this bird keeps its feet dry, eating insects as they are stirred up by the cattle it closely follows. These egrets delight in patrolling freshly plowed or disced lands where they can find their share of succulent grubs.

Because of its numbers, however, the cattle egret is being scrutinized by game biologists. Ranchers want to know if this bird can carry diseases to and between their cattle. Some quail hunters, too, wonder if the cattle egret is a predator on baby quail. Lovett Williams, biologist in charge of game research considers this unlikely but plans to find definite answers to the question.

Disease studies are being made at the University of Florida. Food habits are being studied at Alabama's Auburn University.

Answers will soon be forthcoming on the role of this do-it-yourself immigrant.

TURKEY-LESS Madison County has been closed to turkey hunting for several years while the Commission has stocked 90 birds at the rate of 30 per year. The population is now about 500 and birds are being trapped within the county for redistribution in areas of the county which lack them.

The Commission will probably open the season there in the Fall of 1968.

FOR YEARS, Florida biologists have questioned the value and wisdom of releasing pen-raised turkeys into the wild. In fact, they now know this practice should be prohibited. And with reason.

For one, nearly all pen-raised turkeys are vaccinated with a live virus for fowlpox, creating carriers out of these birds. In the wild, they pass the disease onto the ultra-susceptible native stock.

Also, the domestic birds have natural "built-in" immunities to disease through breeding, but they still may be disease carriers. And even though wild turkey stock recovers rapidly from disease, such exposure possibly could lead to a genetic contamination.

Biologists who work with these birds have seen enough cases to know that pen-raised birds can't make it in the wild anyway. They just don't know how to protect themselves and fall easy prey to predators.

And to top it all off, they're not decent game birds—wild birds, say the biologists, are superior in all respects. ●



## CONSERVATION SCENE

(Continued from page 4)

depth of passion, is quite rare in our world today."

The author of numerous papers, reports, and popular articles on wildlife conservation and natural resource problems, Ernie Swift has summed up a lifetime of fighting many conservation battles in this, his first major full-length book. Contained in its three major sections are the story of his early life on a northern Wisconsin "stump" farm, his early years with the Wisconsin Conservation Department, his conservation philosophy, and his outlook for the future. He started his conservation career in 1926 as a "game warden," rose through the ranks to head the Wisconsin agency from 1947-1954, served a year as Assistant Director of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and from 1955 to 1960 was executive director of the National Wildlife Federation with headquarters in Washington, D.C. Since then, he has been conservation advisor to the Federation from his home in Rice Lake, Wisconsin.

Copies of A CONSERVATION SAGA are available, at \$5.00 per copy, from the National Wildlife Federation, 1412 Sixteenth St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

### Fishing Derby Praise

THE Schlitz Florida Fishing Derby received official praise from the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission for contributions to improve Florida sport fishing.

Commendation was expressed in a recent resolution adopted by the Commission for the unique conservation research study that enabled state anglers to hook more than \$300,000 in Derby cash awards.

The Jos. Schlitz Brewing Company sponsored the popular annual event for six years in cooperation of the Commission and the State Board of Conservation



Homosassa Springs Photo

When it comes to spring waterfowl family raising time, Momma Mallard isn't particular about whose young'uns she takes care of. In addition to her own, there are a few muscovies (white) plus a variety of black ducks, and even a fulvous tree duck. Can you identify the mixed flock?

(for salt water). With all costs borne by Schlitz, the state agencies tagged and released more than 50,000 fresh and salt water fish throughout Florida.

Individual awards of from \$3.00 to \$10,000 went to over 8,000 fishermen returning tagged catches for conservation studies.

From Derby records of where and when each fish was released and caught, the state was able to establish that some species have a homing instinct and can return many miles to their original habitat if they are moved to other locations. The research also

revealed that some fresh water fish are more easily caught when taken from their native environment and placed in strange waters.

Since the tagging studies indicated that fewer than five per cent of available pan fish were being caught, the Commission has begun an experimental fish attractor program with the use of feeding stations that may have a significant effect in increasing fresh water catches.

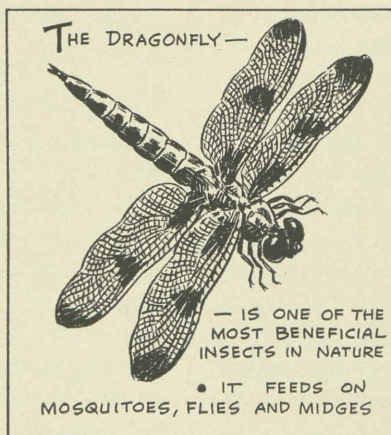
This research, the resolution said, "contributed greatly to the knowledge of Florida's fishing resource, and better management for the benefit of resident and visiting fishermen."

### Farms and Wildlife

WHAT HAPPENS ON FARMS and ranches this spring can determine how much wildlife will be found there next fall, according to the Wildlife Management Institute. It is the things a landowner does this spring that can make his property either useful or useless for wildlife during much of the year.

With the assistance now avail-

### Nature Notes





able through federal agricultural programs, plus the aid of skilled wildlife managers of the state game departments, there is little reason for owners of suitable ranch or farm properties to be in want to many kinds of wildlife. They can have wildlife if they want it. And better yet, available financial and technical assistance hold out-of-pocket costs to a bare minimum.

Under continuing federal agricultural programs, landowners can receive federal cost-sharing for most of the expense of creating farm ponds, restoring marshes and wetlands, and creating and maintaining wildlife cover of all kinds. Under cooperative arrangements the U.S. Department of Agriculture has with most state wildlife departments, skilled technicians will visit interested farmers and ranchers and prepare detailed plans and recommendations for the food, cover, and other factors wildlife need. Federal cost sharing also is available for buying necessary seed, shrubs and trees and for preparing sites and planting food and cover plots. And in some states, additional incentive payments are made to farmers and ranchers who open their lands for public hunting and recreation.

In Connecticut, more than 350 farm owners established wildlife food and cover plots or have constructed ponds with federal and state help during the past four years. Last year alone 73 Agricultural Conservation Program projects involving wildlife were completed.

In Michigan, about 1,000 landowners agreed to provide public hunting access to more than 100,000 acres, mostly in the southern part of the state. And in Minnesota more than 15,000 cooperative agreements to develop wildlife habitat were made with farmers last year. Nearly \$1 million was invested there in wildlife habitat under the Agricultural Conservation Program during 1966. ●

## THE CHANGING SCENE

*(Continued from page 5)*

basin and the Rockies in the 30's and 40's to capture on canvas an already vanishing America. Fremont took credit for the discoveries of the mountain men, and Parkman's OREGON TRAIL finally became a classic. Many of these journals touched on romance and adventure, but the diaries of the first pioneers of the wagon trains told of many hardships. None spoke of husbandry.

During the last twenty-five years of the 19th century Congress and Presidents were persuaded to set aside public domain in the interests of forest and scientific preservation; and more literature appeared on the abuses resulting from logging, forest fires and the excessive killing of game by commercializers and sports.

During this era the American Forestry Association, the Boone and Crockett Club and scientific societies were organized. A few magazines of where to hunt came on the market, with pictures of kills that would surfeit the most greedy. Trappers, guides for professionals and farm boys became popular.

Also during this time a new generation of evangelists became prominent on the public stage, and the word CONSERVATION took on the primary meaning of husbanding resources. Forestry became a profession, the U. S. Forest Service was established in 1905, and the States began in a feeble way to look to the management of their resources. In 1904 Federal legislation was introduced to allow the United States government to manage migratory waterfowl. Such heresy had a long hard row and was not finalized until 1918 when a treaty was negotiated with Great Britain and some years later with Mexico.

The drouth of the 30's focused attention on the need for universal management of resources. Old

Federal bureaus were enlarged and new ones created. The states became more active. The CCC camps put some 2,000,000 young men to work on the land. Most of their effort was very commendable and certainly educational to that generation. All this accelerated the establishment of game management schools in universities and colleges. The need for better educated professionals and a public with an intelligent understanding was rapidly becoming apparent.

This impact increased all types of literature and reading material on conservation, from scientific essays, textbooks, to more space in newspapers and magazines dealing with hunting, fishing, and general recreation. Today this volume has reached a point where it is impossible to digest it all—so that reading must become selective. The professionals peruse their journals, the hunters and fishermen their outdoor magazines, the bird watchers their periodicals, as well as skiers, the trout fishermen, the boosters of wilderness and the speed boaters. It assumes a tremendous groundswell in volume of profundity, shallowness and special interests.

There is much to be said for the present quality and variety of conservation literature—although some could be left unsaid. It is hoped that it will all add up to an educational renaissance in attitude and basic values. It is hoped that it will gather the many interests to the conference table instead of separating them. Progress will only be made by the mingling of ideas and legitimate compromises. Irresistible forces and immovable objects make little headway when they meet. This does not mean that peace and light will always prevail; frictions will sharpen the issues and cause people to consider points of debate which they had previously overlooked. The emphasis is much different than it once was, and generally for the better. ●



## Whooping Crane Preservation Project

A NEW PLAN to increase the population of endangered whooping cranes by removing eggs from nests in northern Canada for hatching in captivity is being put into effect this spring.

The method was adopted after six years of intensive study on whoopers and related species of cranes by the U.S. Department of Interior's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife and by the Canadian Wildlife Service.

The survival rate of young whooping cranes has been poor during 25 years of checking. Only 120 young birds have returned to wintering grounds at the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in Texas during that period, and the total adult wild population was only 43 last winter. All have started northward.

Sport Fisheries and Wildlife has developed competence for hatching and rearing cranes during the past six years by working with species of sandhill cranes closely related to the Whooper. Studies

have included the development of methods for removing eggs from nests and transporting, incubating, and hatching them under bantam hens or in mechanical incubators. Other studies covered brooding, rearing and all other facets of crane care in captivity.

Under the plan, Canadian Wildlife Service biologists will continue to locate as many pairs of whooping cranes as possible in their remote nesting area near Canada's Great Slave Lake. After eggs have reached the proper stage, a Canadian pilot will fly a team of United States and Canadian biologists to the sites by helicopter. Whoopers normally lay two eggs. This pickup team will remove one egg each from up to six nests, with as little disturbance as possible to the parent birds. Three hours after egg removal, the nests will be resurveyed to see if the adult birds have returned to incubate the remainder. If not, those eggs will also be removed. ●

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## Florida Underwater Exploration

THE LURE of sunken treasure, spearfishing, fabulously colorful underwater photography or just plain love of the sport, annually draws thousands of skindivers to Florida. The opportunities are unlimited in the Sunshine State.

Florida's coastline, with its bays and reefs covers some 2,500 miles. Add to this 30,000 fresh water lakes, springs, and streams, and you have a skindiver's paradise, unequaled anywhere in the world.

Whether snorkelling along the surface or SCUBA diving to the depths, the beauty and mystery of this underwater world is apparent everywhere.

From now until early fall is the best time to explore the underwater possibilities along Florida's vast coastline.

The water has begun to lose its winter chill giving the diver additional underwater visibility. As it becomes warmer the greater becomes the viewing distance.

Florida, as well as much of the southeastern part of the United States, was once sea bottom and a large deposit of limestone was laid down during the millennia of ocean life. This formation today forms the bedrock foundation for the land.

Fresh water ate away at the limestone over the centuries and today north and central Florida is honeycombed with springs, caves and "sinkholes." A sinkhole is formed when a cavern, through which an underground river flows collapses, allowing the water to rise to the surface.

Some of the springs produce large rivers, while others emerge and disappear underground quickly.

These springs and streams are crystal clear throughout the year with a constant temperature of 68-70 degrees. However there are times when the runoff from heavy rains may cloud the water, but it clears rapidly.

Caves and syphons abound and in these as well as the spring-fed rivers fossils and artifacts from the many periods of the state's history can be found. The sheer beauty of the unusual views is fringe benefit.

The 100 miles of islands known as the Florida Keys is one of the most magnificent diving areas, rivalling any other site in the world.

Foremost is the John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park covering nearly 75 square miles of living coral formations. The area is strictly off-limits for spearfishermen.

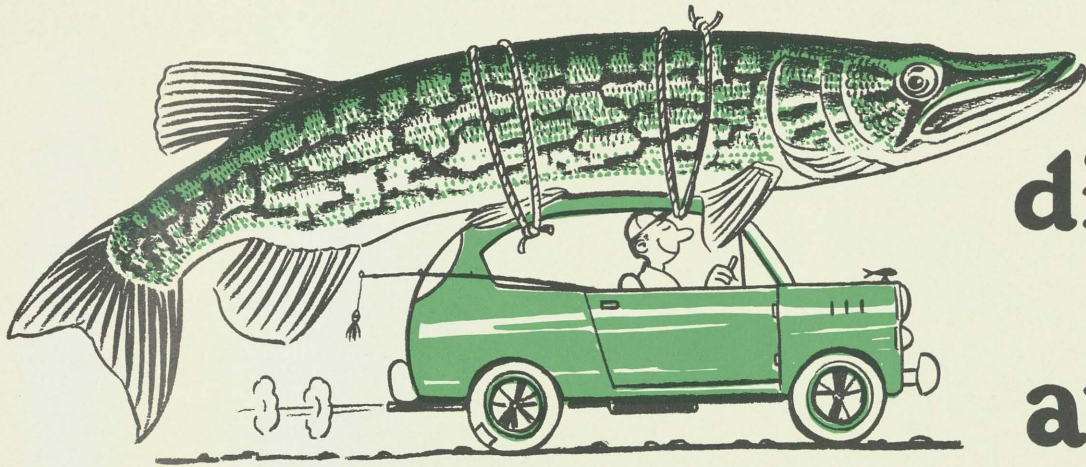
Headquarters for the park is at Key Largo, an hour drive from Miami. The off-shore reef, inches underwater in some places to several feet, is accessible either by private or chartered boat. There are excellent camping and recreation facilities on the park grounds.

North past West Palm Beach the ocean diving is excellent and just about any species of fish can be speared. It is along this area to Vero Beach that the valuable highly publicized Spanish treasure locations were found.

The Gulf side of the Keys are shallow, uninteresting flats but around the Ten Thousand Islands the water again is clear and game fish can be taken. ●



# For that BIG ONE that



# didn't get away

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS SPECIES

### LARGEMOUTH BASS

.....8 pounds or larger

### CHAIN PICKEREL

.....4 pounds or larger

### BLUEGILL (BREAM)

.....1 1/2 pounds or larger

### SHELLCRACKER

.....2 pounds or larger

### BLACK CRAPPIE

.....2 pounds or larger

### RED BREAST

.....1 pound or larger

All fish must be taken from the fresh waters of the state of Florida, as defined by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Fish must be caught on conventional fishing tackle, with artificial or live bait, in the presence of at least one witness.

The catch must be weighed and recorded at a fishing camp or tackle store within the state by the owner, manager, or an authorized agent of the respective establishment.

## FLORIDA WILDLIFE'S FISHING CITATION

is available without charge, to any and all subscribers to Florida Wildlife Magazine, and their immediate families, who catch any of the fresh-water game fish of the prescribed species and size requirements. Citation, showing recorded date of the catch, will be mailed to the applicant upon receipt of the following application form that has been properly filled out and signed.

Only fishing citation applications received within  
90 days from date of catch will be honored.

### APPLICATION FOR FLORIDA WILDLIFE FISHING CITATION

The Editor, FLORIDA WILDLIFE

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Fla.

Please send me the Florida Wildlife Fishing Citation with the inscribed data listed below:

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip No. \_\_\_\_\_

Species \_\_\_\_\_ Weight \_\_\_\_\_ Length \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Tackle \_\_\_\_\_

Bait or Lure Used \_\_\_\_\_

Where Caught \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ County

Date Caught \_\_\_\_\_ Catch Witnessed By \_\_\_\_\_

Registered, Weighed By \_\_\_\_\_ At \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

CUT OUT AND SAVE THIS APPLICATION BLANK





Barking Tree Frog

Photo By Wallace Hughes

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